THE INDEPENDENT

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Ready to go: America is on the brink of attacking Iraq again



Ready for action: a member of the ground crew rushes to his post as an American warplane lands on the USS Nimitz in the northern Gulf

Photograph: AP

Iraq and the United States looked set for renewed armed conflict after a day of high drama in New York, Washington and Baghdad. The Iraqis announced the expulsion of American weapons inspectors; the UN said it will leave Iraq. Our US correspondent weighs the choices on all sides.

The stand-off accelerated with a speed that few had anticipated, including Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General. Yesterday morning, only hours after the United Nations Security Council had passed a unaninous resolution approving furtier sanctions on Iraq, Baghdad dispectors in Iraq were given six

An expulsion order had been hanging over the American members of UN inspection teams since 29 October, when Baghdad first ordered their departure - an order that was suspended while diplomatic procedures were underway.

In Washington, President Clinton called the National Security Council into immediate session. He emerged, grave, to describe the expulsions as 'clearly unacceptable" and a "challenge to the international community". He added: "It is important to the safety of the world that they [the inspectors] continue their work. I intend to pursue the matter in a very determined way."

Within the hour, Richard Butler, the chairman of Unit back. The six US weapons scom, the commission over-

and a half hours to leave the announced the withdrawal of all send, except the Americans." country. They were told to Unscom staff in Iraq. A small leave for Jordan by land, a team of about nine people will members of the UN teams, and the mustering of volun- poll showed more than 60 per

be left to maintain facilities. and the American-piloted U2 Asked whether the UN offices, spy planes that are used for UN equipment and documents were surveillance missions over Iraq, secure, Mr Butler said bluntly: are being used not only for UN "Yes." But he stressed that purposes but in America's own "every day lost makes the cir- national interests. Mr Aziz has cumstances worse" in terms of continually made reference to

BY MARY DEJEVSKY

The Iraqi deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz, who has been trying to argue his country's case at the UN this week, blew hot and cold, but maintained the position he has presented consistently: "Iraq is ready to continue

its cooperation with Unscom.

duties, with any other person-

Iraq's unmonitored military po- an unannounced inspection at an installation he said was for the security of President Saddam Hussein, and so, in his view, a matter of national security and sovereignty.

The consistency of Tariq Aziz's position, the defiant words of other Iraqi officials who say they are "not scared" Unscom could perform fully its of further sanctions or a military strike, and the overt prepaseeing the disarming of Iraq, nel the chairman decides to rations for war in Baghdad - the region to launch an immediate be sooner rather than later.

whipping up of national senti- military strike on Iraq, and a na-Iraq's view is that American _ment. the mass demonstrations tional consensus: a weekend all suggest that Iraq has decided that it has nothing to lose by pared with 24 per cent who standing firm. Baghdad wants a foreseeable end to sanctions.

The United Nations has a dilemma. It muststand by the principle that no country can determine the composition of UN teams, and no country should several Security Council members, including Russia, China and France, reluctant to impose further sanctions, it is hard to use of force to ensure compliance, so long as Iraq does not

resort to force itself. This pushes the burden of decision on to President Clinton. He has a cause: US inspectors are being expelled. He also has the capacity: the US has sufficient hardware in the

righteous indignation, comwould oppose it.

The problem for Mr Clinton is, what then? The US believes the UN has the authority for a military strike under previous Security Council resolutions, but this is not a view universaldefy UN resolutions. But with ly shared. Even by asking for a new resolution on military action, the US could break the fragile unity of the Security Council; but if it strikes unilatsee that it would approve the erally, international opprobrium will be turned away from Iraq and on to the US.

If Mr Clinton does nothing, he lappears weak.

On past performance the possibility of Saddam Hussein backing down looks remote. In which case, Mr Clinton may reason that a military strike should

INSIDE TODAY

CHRIS EVANS/3 Boozer, big-mouth, great face for radio... and now a tycoon?

WHAT'S ON? Film, music and reviews. 28 page weekend guide. In today's Eye

GIRL POWER/19 Suzanne Moore thinks

the ladbashing ads are a very good thing.



HAIRLESS?/16

Tough, go-ahead women are going bald. (Oh no, they're not.)



WEATHER The Eye, page 26 TELEVISION The Eye, page 28 CROSSWORDS Page 28 and the Eye, page 25

Web address: http://www.

Brassée

France

TODAY'S NEWS

Bankers spill the beans

The Independent eavesdropped yesterday on a confidential global video conference held for a Swiss bank's directors in London, New York and Hong Kong to discuss their acquisition of BZW's investment banking activities from Barclays Bank. The directors of Gredit Suisse First Boston could hardly surpress their glee at bagging the British business for what the City Viewed as a knock-down price of £100m. They discussed mass sackings and why they didn't buy BZW's business in Japan - because it was "a loser." Page 20

Breast cancer risk

A woman's risk of undergoing a mastectomy for breast cancer ranges from zero to 80 per cent, depending on the surgeon treating her, according to a new study. It adds to existing fears about the variable quality of breast cancer screening in Britain. Page 9

SEEN & HEARD

In his time he has been wrongly accused of murder, kidnapped, and almost assassinated by Bill Clinton's cadillac. Now he has decided to retire from the frontline. Humphrey the Downing Street cat is leaving polities and moving to the country. It was rumoured that the venerable feline had fallen out with Cherie Blair although both strenuously denied it and agreed to pose for photographs. In fact the ageing mouser has been suffering from a kidney complaint and has been advised to take things easy. Downing Street insisted he will be sorely missed and welcome to visit at any time.

The mystery swagman who raised £15m for Tory party

The existence of a £15m Tory fund-raiser was denied by William Hague's office last night. With sleaze charges high on the agenda at Westminster, Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, reports on the mystery of the Australian 'swagman'.

The leader of the Conservative Party has submitted the name of Ronald J Walker, a prominent Melbourne businessman, to the Prime Minister for a knighthood, The Independent has been told. Authoritative sources have re-

vealed that Mr Walker served as the Tories' overseas treasurer before the last election, and that he delivered foreign funds to the tune of at least £15m for John Major's 1997 election campaign.

A spokesman for Mr Hague's office yesterday insisted that Mr Walker had not been a Tory overseas treasurer, "within living memory". But Mr Walker's name appears as one tions were raised by Mr Walk-

treasurers on letter heading of the "Conservative and Unionist Central Office Treasurers' Department", used last year. The Independent has been

told Mr Walker's name was submitted to Mr Blair for a knighthood, along with that of Bernie Ecclestone, the Formula One motor racing chief who remains at the centre of a row over contributions to the Labour Party. Following advice given to

Labour by Sir Patrick Neill QC, the new chairman of the official Committee on Standards

been authoritatively informed that Mr Ecclestone gave about £10m to the Conservatives. along with a loan of £4m, and those gifts are certain now to become a focus of attention for the

in Public Life, Labour is being forced to return a £1m donation from Mr Ecclestone, because of a ministerial decision to exempt amounts and dates?" He also Formula One from a ban on tobacco sponsorship in sport. But The Independent has

Neill inquiry into party funding. It is not known whether some of the Ecclestone dona-

gotiated the multi-million pound deal under which Mr Ecclestone agreed, in December 1993, to switch the Australian Grand Prix from Adelaide to Melbourne from this year.

The political significance of the allegations linking Mr Walker, the Tory party, overseas funding, Mr Hague and Mr Ecclestone will not be lost on a beleaguered Labour leadership. Jack Straw, the Home Sec-

retary, yesterday wrote to Mr Hague to ask: "Are press reports accurate that Bernie Ecclestone made donations and loans to the Conservative Party, and, in which case, what were the asked: "How much money have vou received from abroad to

fund election campaigns?" Mr Hague replied last night: "Your attempt to divert attention away from the Government's decision to treat Formula One in a completely different way from other national sports ... is pathetic."

He also told the Home Secretary: "Before the summer, I instructed our party treasurers

of a number of honorary party er, but it was Mr Walker who ne- that ... we will not accept foreign donations."

Mr Hague said in July: "We will publish new guidance later this year, and our intention is that in future years the Conservative Party will no longer accept foreign donations." His spokesman was unable to say last night when foreign donations would be stopped - although the Government is to make them illegal from next year. It was disclosed yesterday that

Sir Patrick had been asked by Tom Sawyer, Labour general secretary, to rule on the acceptability of a further, post-election donation from Mr Ecclestone.

The Prime Minister raised the issue in yesterday's Cabinet, during which a number of ministers said it was "ridiculous" that business donations should be questioned in this way - when all Government decisions regularly affected business in general and in particular. The No 10 spokesman said: "We get it in the neck for taking money, we get it in the neck for giving it back, and now we're getting it in the neck for not taking money."

Tobacco row, page 5

COLUMN ONE

Things ain't so dandy for this tough old cowboy

The kids of today. Having goaded the once liberal Jack Straw into raging about child curfews and juvenile tagging, they have now driven poor old Desperate Dan into retirement.

After 60 years of appearing in every edition of the Dandy comic, he has been dropped because he is no longer "relevant" in the world of the

DC Thomson, the comic's publishers, admitted yesterday that the decision would perturb many parents who had grown up with Dan's tales of Cow Pies and Owl Hoot Juice and regarded him as a figure synonymous with a contented childhood.

But Agnes Wilson, of the D C Thomson's editorial management team, said: "We know the character is relevant to parents but we don't know



how relevant he is to today's children." She added: "From time to time everybody reappraises the content of their magazines and comics. We wondered whether it was time to give him a rest." The comic's editor, Morris

Heggie, was vesterday sticking to the official Dandy line that Dan had gone happily of his own accord. "Dan was doing a bungee jump and struck an oil well with his mighty chin when the elastic broke," he said. "From his yacht, somewhere in the Bahamas, he has informed me that he is no longer desperate. So I'm looking for someone to fill his boots." Desperate Dan - "The rough-

est, toughest cowboy in the West" - first appeared in the Dandy in the launch issue of 4 December 1937. He was inspired by celluloid cowboy heroes like Tom Mix, who were

popular in the Thirties and who were also models for other cartoon figures like Buck Jones and Kit Carson who have preceded Dan into the Dan's demise follows that of Korky the Cat, who recently lost his ever-

present record in Dandy to be reduced to the status of a "now and again character". A similar fate has befallen Lord Snooty, once a regular of the sister comic Beano, which has also driven Big Eggo, the cartoon ostrich which once graced its cover, into extinction. The Dandy and the Beano both still sell in the region of 300,000 copies per issue, although that is a far cry from the million plus sales of the Fifties and Sixties.

DC Thomson is expecting some of these readers to mount a protest when Dan's departure becomes apparent with deliveries of the next issue. "We are waiting to see what reaction we get," said a company source.

Which might lead cynics to think that this whole affair is not unrelated to the recent publication of a new Christmas book, The Legend of Desperate Dan, which chronicles of years of the cowpoke's adventures.

Maybe this time the kids are not to blame after all. As a public relations company yesterday spread the news that Dan had gone, it seemed that even Cactusville, Texas, where Dan used to live with his Auntie. Aggie, had succumbed to the world of hype.

— Ian Burrell

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PEOPLE



All's well that ends well for Wanamaker's vision

Sam Wanamaker, the man who brought us Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, was awarded a posthumous recognition of his vision last night.

The film director, who fought to rebuild the theatre for many frustrating years but who died in 1993 before his dream was fulfilled, was named the 1997 Ambassador for London.

Lord Renwick, chairman of the judging panel, said: "Sam Wanamaker receives our recognition for his extraordinary vision, leadership, energy and determination in realising his dream of recreating Shakespeare's Globe Theatre for the benefit of all Londoners and for countless visitors, artists and scholars in the future."

Sam Wanamaker visited London in the Forties, expecting to find a monument to the world's greatest playwright. Instead he found only a plaque commemorating the location of the Globe Theatre and vowed one day to remedy the lack of a memorial.

Thirty years later he set up a trust and began to raise funds. By 1995 more than £12m had been raised. This was matched by the same amount from the National Lottery and the Globe was secure.

Collecting the award on behalf of Wanamaker, artistic director Mark Rylance said: "Taking London as his family's adoptive home during the Fifties, Sam always loved London, and, with education at the heart of the Globe, Sam's vision encompassed young people and visitors of all ages, as well as the recreation of the theatre itself.

"We are all very thrilled that you have honoured Sam with a fitting title - Ambassador for London - and hope this will encourage the assistance we still

need to fulfil all Sam's dreams for the project." The theatre attracts thousands of visitors a week and the accompanying Globe Exhibition was last year named best attraction in Europe.

--- Amanda Kelly

'Absolute bravery', said the Queen to Lisa Potts

Lisa Potts, the nursery nurse who saved children at a picnic from a man wielding a macheté by shîelding them with her own body, met the Queen yesterday - to be told: "Yours was absolute bravery."

The Oueen praised the former nursery teacher's courage when she presented her with the George Medal, second only to the George Cross as the highest award a civilian can win for bravery, in a ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

Ms Potts, 22, said after the ceremony: "This award is totally gob-

smacking, it leaves me speechless. "I thought I was going to cry at one point before I went on, be-



cause of the music, the atmosphere, everything."

The Queen had asked her how the children she saved had fared -some were left badly scarred by dren from Campbell.

the attack by Horrett Campbell, 33, who is being held in a secure mental hospital for an unlimited period. Ms Potts said some of the children still had scars as a result of the attack last year at St Luke's Infant School, Wolverhampton.

"[The Queen] asked me how I was and how I was feeling. She said, 'Yours was absolutely bravery'. "I said thank you very much, your Majesty, but it was purely instinctive'. She smiled and shook my hand." Ms Potts added. The medal is the 17th award

she has received in recognition of her bravery in protecting the chil-

ed to pull the plug on The Cook Report after 12 years on ITV.

The investigative journalist, whose confrontational style meant him getting attacked by many of his targets, has decided to pull out because ITV's half-hour shows are not long enough to fit in a full story and because he is fed up with

Steve Clark, Carlton Television controller of programmes, said: "He has been doing this job for 25 years now. In that time there is not one part of his body that hasn't been injured."

— Paul McCann

UPDATE

SOCIETY

More women seek Shelter

Record numbers of women are seeking help because of homelessness and poor housing, according to the charity Shelter.

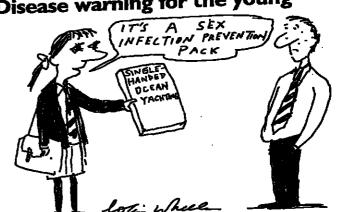
The organisation said that more than 36,000 women - around a third of all clients - approached its network of advice centres during 1996-97. While the majority (21,414) were homeless, a further 10,000 had problems such as mortgage and rent arrears, and 5 per cent needed advice about accommodation problems such as domestic violence and landlord harassment

These figures explode the myth that homelessness is just a male problem," said Louise Casey, Shelter's deputy director. "Instead, they paint a disturbing picture of women whose lives are blighted by bousing problems. "Some of the most tragic cases we deal with are those involving work

en who flee a violent partner only to face the trauma of homelessness. This very vulnerable group are still not given priority for housing by many local authorities and all too often miss out on the safety and support they desperately need." The charity is calling for improved central and local government policies which reflect the diverse housing needs of women.

— Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent.

Disease warning for the young



One in ten sexually active young people could be carrying a sexually transmitted infection, according to new research from Brook Advisory Cen-

Costing the NHS an estimated £874m a year, STIs are most prevalent amongst the under-25s. Brook warns that although most people know about the dangers of HTV/Aids, few are aware of more common infections such as chlamydia, gonorrhea and genital warts. Most STIs can easily be diagnosed and treated with antibiotics, but, left untreated, some infections can result in infertility, ectopic pregnancy and cervical cancer.

"The message we're hearing from young people is that they don't receive enough relevant information about infections," said Margaret Brook, the charity's chief executive. Yesterday, Brook launched a teaching pack entitled Infection Protection for schools.

 Infection Protection: £24.95 from Brook Publications, 165 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UD

— Glenda Cooper

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HEALTH

Diabetes costs NHS £4,000 a minute

Treating diabetes costs the National Health Service more than £4,000 a minute, according to figures released today.

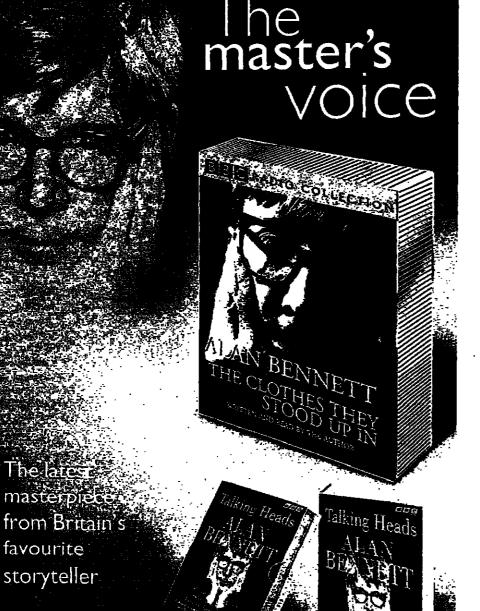
But the bill could be reduced with better education about the condition and early diagnosis, the British Diabetic Association (BDA) said. Treatment for the condition accounts for £2.1bn of the annual NHS budget and diabetes is the single biggest cause of blindness in people of working age in the UK. The news comes on World Diabetes Day and coincides with the launch of NHS guidelines on how to educate the public and sufferers. about the condition. More than 1.4 million people in Britain have diabetes and the BDA estimates there may be another million undiagnosed.

Roger Cook pulls plug on show

Roger Cook, that doyen of foot- being bashed around. Cook was on in-the-door reporters, has decid- a stakeout yesterday, but his agent said: "Roger has really taken a battering over the last 10 years."

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Austria (schillings)	20,04	Japan (yen)	210.95
Belgium (francs)	58,92	Malta (lira)	0.63
Canada (\$)	2.33	Netherlands (guilders)	3.21
Cyprus (pounds)	0.83	Norway (kroner)	11.73
Denmark (kroner)	10,91	Portugal (escudos)	289_33
France (francs)	9.54	Spain (pesetas)	240.02
Germany (marks)	2.86	Sweden (kroner)	12.51
Greece (drachmei)	451.03	Switzerland (francs)	2.33
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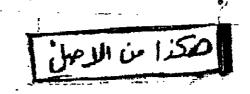


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MAGAZINE Food and drink special issue – exotic eating



Ute Lemper: Chicago's mature babe



THE EYE Film, theatre, pop, Robson Greene

TIME OFF Skiing in the US, 48 hours in Istanbul

PLUS Paul Daniel: How to save the ENO

Straw learns French to make entente more cordiale

Jack Straw is taking French lessons. So are other members of Tony Blair's Cabinet. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, reports on the efforts around Whitehall to make the entente more cordial with the French.

When Jack Straw meets the French interior minister for talks, he can confidently get past the opening exchanges of "ça va?". The Home Secretary is privately brushing up on his

. A French teacher called Nicole arrives at the Home Office at crack of dawn to help Mr Straw improve his accent and master his French verbs before he turns to the crackdown on crime.

-- Cent Star

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ger & Jen Boss

"I have always been slight-



Straw's confession: "My verbs are awful"

ly embarrassed by my French. I have got café French, so I can always get myself fed and watered," the Home Secretary

"It's survival French. I can count well in French, add and subtract, but my accent needs some improvement and I literally face a verbal challenge my verbs are awful."

Mr Straw passed his O-level in French and began polishing his verbs with a language course at the House of Com-

That enabled him to con-

duct conversations in French with Lionel Jospin, the French

Prime Minister. Many of Mr Straw's Cabinet colleagues are also brushing up on their French. One of the first orders that Jack Cunningham issued when he was appointed as the Minister for Agriculture was to get lessons in French.

Many officials at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, have to be multilingual in order to conduct their hard bargaining with their European counter-parts, when it is important to have something better than Franglais to understand the nuances.

At one Council of Europe lunch, Jacques Chirac, the French President, told the Prime Minister in French: "You are five kilometres to the right of us." Mr Blair is said to have replied: "Oui, c'est vrai Jacques, et j'en suis fier (Yes, and I'm proud of it.)."

Mr Cunningham has some French but he is taking a crash course to prepare himself for the negotiations to come.

State for Culture, Media and Sport, is another Cabinet minister brushing up his French. "I do speak French but it is a little rusty. I shall be endeavouring to remove some of the rust," he said.

Why the sudden rush to French lessons?

It is not that Tony Blair and his press secretary, Alastair Campbell, showed that they were fluent in the language at the "cool Britannia" summit with Mr Chirac a week ago at Canary Wharf. The scramble to learn the lingo is part of preparations for the Labour government taking over the Presidency of the EU in January.

"We are being communitaire," said one Whitehall source. "And some of these French socialists don't speak very good English."

But it is unlikely that the whole Cabinet will be following the stampede to brush up their French.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, has led a Labour delegation in Europe and travelled the world as a steward, but is not expected to be joining the Cabinet classes

A boorish bigmouth who likes champagne and Guinness benders. Would you trust him with £80m?

When Chris Eyans appealed for listeners to send him money so he could buy Virgin Radio no one took him seriously. Now he has the £80m needed from venture capitalists, Paul McCann, Media Correspondent, asks if he is a "fit and proper" person to be a media mogui.

An opera singer dressed as the Sydney Opera House stood in Golden Square in Soho yesterday and serenaded the Virgin Radio offices. No one was quite sure why he was there, but no one was particularly surprised either. "Its been like this since Evans arrived," said a Virgin source. "Evans fans, stretch limos, celebrities everywhere, TV crews. A total buzz and total madness."

The madness became flagrant yesterday with the announcement that the station's star DJ had found a venture capital company to back his bid for Virgin Radio.

Two weeks ago, live on air, Evans asked listeners to help him buy Virgin so as to guar-Virgin, and most of the press assumed it was a stunt.

Apax Partners, one of the original shareholders in Virgin Radio, obviously thought differently. Yesterday it confirmed that it had been in talks with Ginger Productions for some time and was willing to back his bid to merge the radio station with his company. Apax are reported to be willing to put up the £80m needed, in return for a share of Ginger, Evans' £30m

When ordinary mortals try to borrow money, they tend to emphasise their sobriety. Presumably working on the old aphorism that when you owe a bank a dollar you're in trouble but when you owe a bank \$100m the bank is in trouble. Evans instead detailed on air a drinking

binge with his entourage. He also told listeners of his stretch-limousine envy, with US band Aerosmith. Directly after Wednesday's show, and just at the time when Apax Partners were putting together his bid for Capital, the DJ and his team met the American pomprockers in traffic. Impressed with the size of his limo com-

taunt the band.

any media mogul would, leant ger Productions managing di- its metaphor for the radio sta- The downside to this is that if out of the window of his car to rector John Revell went out on tion. For Evans describing his his bid for Virgin were to suc-Then later in the day - and bender. not, says a spokesman, be-

a champagne and Guinness

All of this was described in true post-modern performer, about him than he would like. cause he was celebrating his some detail live on air - along and his celebrity life has be-Virgin bid, but "because he's with a weird story about his bid come the show. Fortunately he approve the ownership of com-

pared with theirs, Evans, like just like that"-Evans and Gin- for Virgin that took lemons as has a pretty interesting life. life on air is less a part of an act, ceed, the radio industry watchas all of his act. He is now the dog probably knows more

Centre of attention: Chris Evans likes to play the clown, but his humour is not to everybody's taste Photograph: lan Vogler

mercial radio licences and has a clause in its regulations that reads: "The Authority shall not grant a licence to any person unless they are satisfied that he is a fit and proper person to

Given Mr Evan's taste for on-air sexual innuendo – he recently had a listener reveal her surgically enhanced breasts on air in an aural nudity experiment - and drinking binges, there will no doubt be some moralists who would object to him getting a radio licence. Although he certainly wouldn't be the first boozy character to own a radio station. Sources close to Apax would only say yesterday that they wouldn't be in a consortium with Ginger if hev didn't think 🗗 serious operator.

Before it gets to moral outrage, Capital Radio's agreed £87m bid for Virgin probably has to fall foul of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Virgin has said it will consider Evans and Apax's offer seriously, so it obviously no longer has an exclusivity deal with Capital preventing it from talking to others.

The rationale for the Capital/Virgin deal is that it would fund both stations' expansion into digital radio. But Branson is clearly tempted by Ginger Productions because it would give him what he's always want-

ed - access to TV production. importantly, while all this was taking place yesterday the TV half of Evan's media empire was close to completing a deal with Channel 4 for the broadcaster to keep taking his television programme TF1 Friday for another four years. This deal is said to be worth £20m.

Chris Evans may or may not be seen by some as a "fit and proper" person to own a radio station, but in terms of one key The Radio Authority has to criterion - money - he's already

Four fantastic systems. One tough decision.

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Voting in Commons may go electronic

Electronic voting in the Commons could become a reality, the Leader of the Commons, Ann Taylor, told MPs last night. She said the Modernisation Committee was looking into the evidence on the advantages of "feasibility and desirability" of electronic voting, but she electronic voting, but that it was likely MPs would not be able to use the system if they were out- it for a trial period vet. side the chamber or the division

Mrs Taylor, opening a debate House, said the Government voting introduced." had managed to start reforming Commons procedures, but more work was needed.

Commons, Gillian Shephard, said the Tories welcomed the general thrust of what the committee was trying to achieve, but stressed that change had to be evolutionary.

Mrs Taylor said: "Once we have spent some time as members here, it's very obvious that there are debates that are not their constituents." as fruitful and productive and enlightening as they might be."

She added that the Government had already started bringing in draft Bills which could be discussed hefore formally presented to the House.

Mrs Taylor said some MPs were especially concerned about congestion in the voting lobbies. The Modernisation Committee would be taking stressed there had been no decision on whether to introduce

"Any voting should actually take place either in this chamber or in the lobbies ... rather on the modernisation of the than have some form of remote

As well as examining the "feasibility and desirability" of electronic voting, Mrs Taylor The Shadow Leader of the said the committee was looking into the schedule of the parliamentary year, week and day.

She said: "It is impossible to please everyone but what we are trying to do is to devise a system that will allow all 659 members to undertake their jobs in think is most appropriate to

Mrs Shephard said the Opposition had supported the work of the Modernisation Committee but stressed that the Conservatives supported change only if the sovereignty of Parliament was retained.

Earlier in the Commons, during questions about the business of the House, Labour's Harry Barnes (Derbyshire NE) had called for electronic voting.

He said as a "little baldheaded, 60-year-old man, who wears glasses and has false teeth and whose trousers do not match his jacket", he might seem an "unlikely moderniser". But a "modern, technologically up-to-date electoral system" was needed.

Mr Barnes, who has long campaigned for electoral reform, yesterday brought forward a Bill to amend the Representation of the People Act to make it easier for the homeless to be included on electoral registers.

Mrs Shephard urged Mrs Taylor to look in the future at the work of select committees, applauding their successes, but warning: "I don't think they their individual ways that they should be asked to respond instantly to the political flavour of the moment.

But Mrs Taylor told her that although they could eventually be considered, select committees were "not an immediate priority, not least because I think that most people think they work quite well".



John Major, Baroness Thatcher, Lord Cailaghan of Cardiff and Tony Blair (left to right) were among the prime ministers past and present who attended the memorial service of Lord Tonypandy, the former Speaker, at Westminster Abbey yesterday

Harman plans work-ethic route to welfare reform

The Government's 'big issue' is social exclusion, the Social Security Secretary said yesterday. Glendo Cooper, Social

Affairs Correspondent, looks at Harriet Harman's plans to combat a divided nation.

Harriet Harman yesterday ruled out higher benefits as a way of tackling unemployment saying that the welfare state would be "reformed around the work ethic".

"We want to make the mainportunities and its risks - the implementing a national miniall people of working age." she tax and benefit systems."

told an audience at the launch Social Exclusion, an independept unit at the London School of Economics.

The centre was opened as the Government sets up its own social exclusion unit in the said that the two events were together to confront what is the big issue of this administration". fects of changing family

Work is the only route to sustained financial independence, but it is also much more," she said. "Work is not just about prove and why some are locked earning a living. It is a way of in deprivation. "It is crucial that life.... [We will] ensure that we understand how the areas in tream economy – with its op- work pays wherever possible by

Saying the Government wantof the Centre for Analysis for ed to rebuild an "onenation" society, she defined the socially excluded as those deprived of work, education, material goods, transport, healthcare and financial services...

The ESRC centre will use Cabinet Office. Ms Harman newly available national survey data to follow people from year "enabling the academic world to year to investigate how their and the Government to come incomes change and look at issues such as the long-term efpatterns. It will also track the fortunes of particular areas to explore why some people imlives and life chances," said main path out of exclusion for mum wage and reforming the Dr Anne Power who will coordinate the research.

Hezza to lead pro-hunt MPs

Michael Heseltine will lead the Commons assault on the Bill to ban fox hunting. The former deputy prime minister and dedicated bird watcher has told country sports supporters that he will be taking a leading role in speaking against the Bill on its second reading on 28 November. John Gummer, the former agriculture minister, is also ready to wade into the debate

the debate with Gummer falling in behind. They are the

"Hezza has said he will lead Tory party. He joined the prohunt rally in Hyde Park in July. attended by an estimated

100,000 hunt supporters. Downing Street has refused to give the Bill time to reach the statute book if it is ambushed, as expected, in the Lords, andthe Bill's sponsor, Labour MP Mike Foster, has not been told whether or not Tony Blair will

grandees," said one pro-foxhunting Tory MP. Mr Heseltine's intervention is certain to raise the pitch of the debate, which is already stirring up passions ahead of the second reading. Mr Heseltine has been keeping a low profile since his intervention to defend the euro be in the Commons to vote on the side of country sports. from the Euro-sceptics in the IN MONDAY'S INDEPENDENT

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Health department protests at Formula One pressure

Senior Whitehall sources have protested to The Independent that Formula One lobbied through the Prime Minister's office to block a ban on tobacco sponsorship of the sport. Anthony Bevins reports on another twist in the affair.

The official version of events leading up to the Government's decision to rescue Formula One suggests that it was taken in a normal series of exchanges between Ministers. But high-level sources within the De-

partment of Health have protested that, in the Department, by officials who had Conservative Government, but at a meetthroughout, Formula One cast its influence over the entire process - exerting its influence through No 10 and the Prime Minister's office,

While Tony Blair himself would not have got involved in the detailed negotiations, members of his staff - who might well have been aware of the £1m donation made to the Labour Party by Formula One's Bernie Ecclestone - were putting pressure on the Department of Health to break the manifesto pledge for a ban on tobacco advertising.

That was bitterly resented from with-

suffered years of tobacco lobby pressure from Margaret Thatcher.

The official chronology of Labour negotiations begins with a memorandum sent by Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, to the Prime Minister on 29 May, just four weeks after Labour had tak-

That memorandum sought Mr Blair's agreement to the negotiating position the Government was going to strike over a draft European directive on tobacco

The directive had been opposed by the

ing with EU colleagues on 5 June, Tessa Jowell, Minister for Public Health, offered British support, qualified by any impact the directive might have on sports sponsorship. By June, however, senior sources in the

Department of Health had become acutely conscious that the Prime Minister's office might have been "nobbled". None of the senior people in the De-

partment of Health knew at that stage that Mr Ecclestone had made his donation to the Labour Party, in January, or that he was offering further cash to the party in talks over the summer.

Blair another memorandum on 17 July, setting out the negotiating options for the European directive, including the possibility of an exemption for Formula One, as well as a complete ban on tobacco sponsorship for all sport, it was felt that the die had been cast - and the U-turn had already become embedded in the policy line being

pressed by No 10. According to the Prime Minister's office the first meeting between Ministers sport's governing body, took place on 23 September, and there was a follow-up

By the time that Mr Dobson sent Mr meeting between Mr Ecclestone and Mr Blair on 16 October.

The Prime Minister's office said vesterday that while Mr Blair would have been aware that Labour fund-raisers had been engaged in discussions with Mr Ecclestone, talking about the possibility of a further donation, there would have been no mention of it in those talks. Given the highlevel lobbying exercise that had been applied to No 10 since the election, no one needed to have mentioned anything and Max Mosley, head of the FIA, the so crude as money or donations - that would have been taken as read.

Letters, page 18

F1 fans more likely to start the habit

The Cancer Research Campaign says many young boys who watch motor racing instantly recognise the names of cigarette brands such as Mariboro and Camel. Ion Burrell says this brings further pressure on the Government to reverse its exemption of Formula Research Campaign, said: One from a ban on tobacco sponsorship.

Publishing CRC's research today, the Lancel, the influential medical journal, will run an accompanying editorial which denounces the handling of the sponsorship issue by health

"In the days of a Conservative government both [Frank and south of England. Dobson and Tessa Jowell] might have demanded resignations in circumstances such as this," says the journal.

"A research team from Manchester University found that over 27 per cent of boys aged 12 and 13 who watched motor racing could recognise the name Marlboro, compared to cent had taken up cigarettes by less than 17 per cent of those the following year, compared to who did not like the sport. Similarly, 10 per cent of

those who followed motor racing were familiar with the name Camel, double the figure for those without an interest in Formula One.

The researchers also found that the boys who liked motor racing were more than twice as likely as the other boys to become regular smokers.

Professor Gordon McVie, director general of the Cancer "These children are being subjected to subliminal imagery, the continual flashing of an image in their faces. It is not just the car fiself that they are watching but the branding on the side of the vehicle and at various points around the track." Researchers at the university's Education and Child Studies Research Group were commissioned by the CRC to interview more than 1,000 boys aged 12 and 13 in the north

They were asked which sports they liked to watch television and whether they smoked. The same questions were then posed again a year later. The researchers found that of those non-smoking boys who named motor racing as their favourite sport, 12.8 per seven per cent of boys who did not like motor racing.



Outspoken: Ron Walker with Formula One champion Michael Schumacher. Mr Walker hit the headlines when he described Schumacher as 'an overpaid, good-looking prima donna' Photograph: Simon O'Dwyer

Fixer on the inside track

Ron Walker is in many ways the ideal man to tread softly through the delicate world of international political fundraising where discretion is the key, and donors often do not want their generosity publi-

The millionaire entrepreneur from Melbourne, who has made his fortune out of property development, is the federal treasurer of the Australia's Liberal Party. He has, say his colleagues, the ability to move smoothly between the world of politics and big busi-

He and Andrew Robb, the Federal Director of the Liberals, came over to Britain during the run-up to the last election to try and help John Major's campaign. Mr Walker's company, Hudson Conway, has an office in West London. Yesterday his whereabouts were surrounded in mystery. A receptionist claimed he was "away for the afternoon". But later a colleague said he was in fact in Australia. He refused to comment on the allegations that Mr Walker had raised millions for the Tories, and had been offered

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Labour risks wrecking agreement on sports sponsorship ban

The European Commission is making a fresh attempt to get Britain to climb down over its refusal to back a ban on sports sponsorship by tobacco firms unless Formula One is excluded. Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent, says Labour MPs are furious with the Government's

nt MPs

The Government will be warned in a letter by the European Commissioner, Padraig Flynn, this weekend that its demands to exclude Formula One motor racing could wreck attempts to reach agreement on a European directive to ban sports sponsorship by tobacco

Mr Flynn will table compromise proposals at a meeting of officials on Monday in an attempt to reach a breakthrough.

to reverse Britain's position before a council of health ministers in Brussels on 4 December.

Labour MPs were furious when Ms Jowell told a backbench meeting at the Commons that a deal may not be reached on 4 December, and could be put off until April next year, when Britain would hold the presidency. MPs said she told them: "It could be 4 December, it could be April, it could be never."

Roy Hattersley, who has accepted a Labour peerage, last night said the "fiasco" over Labour taking £1m from Bernie Ecclestone, the Formula One chief, was symptomatic of Tony Blair's attempts to find new friends in forging a consensus for the Labour government.

Calling for a clearer vision from Mr Blair in support of traditional Labour values, Mr Hattersley said in a Hansard Society lecture: "The Government would have avoided even the transient embarrassment had it been guided by a clear and con-Flynn's office.

He is writing to Tessa Jowell, the sistent view of who its friends public health minister, urging her are and whose interests it most

> Mr Flynn's office said he was "dismayed" at receiving a letter last week from Ms Jowell announcing the British decision to demand the exclusion of Formula One from the European ban. "It" came as a bombshell," a spokeswoman for Mr Flynn said.

Mr Flynn will press the Government to offer a compromise which could delay the introduction of a ban on sports sponsorship by tobacco companies, A delay of three years had been offered for most sports, but he is prepared to extend it. Officials will be meeting in Brussels on Monday to discuss a compromise formula before the ministers' meeting.

Britain is still formally sticking to its demand for a total exclusion of motor racing, but privately Whitehall sources said Ms Jowell was under orders to accept a 10-year delay as a fallback position. That may be too long to satisfy Britain's European Union partners, said Mr

Ash, the anti-smoking campaign group, is also appalled by Britain's position. Ash said the voluntary code had been shown as inadequate by breaches by motor racing teams at this year's British Grand Prix at Silverstone

The code is supposed strictly to limit tobacco advertising at Grand Prix events. Ash complained to Comatas, the committee for monitoring agreements on tobacco advertising and sponsorship, that in one case the Marlboro red and white chevron was clearly visible on the Ferrari car. In another, the word "racing" was in exactly the same style of lettering as used to denote the Rothmans cigarette brand.

Comatas said the teams had been using these symbols for a number of years, but had agreed to change them for next season. However, it rejected two further complaints by Ash. In one it had said the Jordans car was advertising Benson & Hedges, and in the other it claimed the Williams car was advertising Rothmans.

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Clay pigeon shooting dreams in ruins

After 70 years in existence, the **British Clay Pigeon Shooting** Association last year clinched its first sponsorship deal ... with Imperial Tobacco. Ion Burrell hears that next July's Embassy World Clay Pigeon Shooting Championship is a sitting duck for new legislation on tobacco sponsorship.

Britain might have eight world champions al clay pigeon shooting but to the nation's broadcasters the sport, like real-life pigeons, is seen as something rather messy and unattractive that they would rather not touch.

So desperate for publicity were the sport's bosses that earlier this year they actually paid a private television company to transmission on one of its minor channels. to find other sponsors outside the tobacknown among existing adult smokers."

year with Imperial Tobacco - which has pledged more than £100,000 over the next five years to keep the sport alive.

The arrangement means that Embassy cigarettes now give their name to the British and World championships, which are due to take place next summer in west London. But now the event and the very future of competitive clay pigeon shooting itself is sweep tobacco sponsorship out of British

Clay pigeon shooting began in the 1880s and has grown to half a million participants in Britain alone. Among the most famous is Jackie Stewart, the former world motor racing champion.

Emilio Orduna, director of the BCPSA, said the sport was run "totally and utterly" on a shoestring. He said that governmake a film which was given to Sky for ment reassurances that sports would be able

The film would not have been possi-ble at all if it had not been for a deal last afraid the CPSA has been running for 70 years and we have always been looking for a sponsor. It is not as simple as it sounds,"

When last year the CPSA finally clinched its dream deal, it thought it had guaranteed the future of its headquarters in Corby, Northamptonshire, and its ninestrong staff. Mr Orduna said that the IT money had enabled the association to plan under threat from government plans to a world championships worthy of the

> Paul Sadler, for Imperial Tobacco, said the company had withdrawn from Formula One - where John Player Special was a famous sponsorship name - in the early 1980s, and had switched to "grass-roots" British-based sports, such as angling, darts and clay pigeon shooting.

They tend to attract the sort of people who might smoke our products," he said. We are looking to get our brand name





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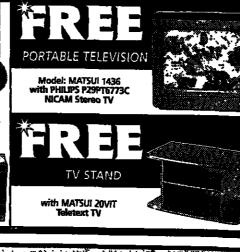
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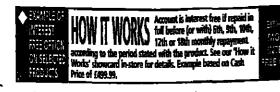


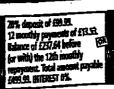
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The third lottery giveaway – £220m to build the future

The Millennium Commission yesterday announced its third and final phase before winding down next spring. Nonie Niesewand, Architecture Correspondent, reports that it is giving away £220m of Lottery money to 7i projects nation-wide that will open in 2000,

The Commission has already committed funds for 185 projects, at present in design stages or under construction - or as officials call it "sod cutting and dredging".

So the struggling act had to spread money evenly across the board. Not too many earth centres, youth centres, bridges or bell towers. Some drinking fountains and village halls. No lighthouses, amusement areades or theme parks.

It also has to balance the different regions with a good spread so that millionpound signs representing lottery handouts pinned on a map of Britain wouldn't all fall like raindrops on the weather chart over, say the North-east.

The steel mill at Rotherham gets £18.6m for a leisure centre focusing on British Industry; Hull gets an aquarium and an ocean centre. Northern Ireland has done well this time round with four schemes: a community centre in Londonderry and Ulster, a town quay in Fermanagh and a linen experience at Moygashel, which is "right and proper since the projects will help in bringing together the community." Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, said.

Wales comes in second. East Midlands finished worst off because officials there did not submit much. But then the Midlands Rolls-Royce Trent Engine, with titanium fan light enough to get 36 more passengers aboard every jet, is heading the Millennium Products Collection as well as the export tables. North Berwick has a Scottish seabird centre and there are two science projects in Glasgow and Dundee.

Bridging was the unspoken agenda, as in bridging loans as well as linking differ-

that is innovative about British ingenuity and engineering. Chris Wilkinson's bridge across the Tyne can be raised like the visor on a motorbike helmet, while Sir Norman Foster is working with Anthony Caro and Ove Arup on the Millennium Bridge linking St Paul's Cathedral to the new Tate Gallery at Bankside.

The rest fall neatly into five categories: Science and technology, the re-generation of cities, support for local communities, environmental sustainability and education, not to be confused with schools since a popular misunderstanding is that the Millennium Commission can fill in for taxes to bolster schools and hospitals and anything else that needs government funding.

It cannot. Lottery money has to be spent on projects that improve the quality of life for citizens in 2000. Mr Smith, who is also the Commission chairman, points out that "these projects represent the aspirations of the public. They represent a very positive statement about Britain."

Science and technology (a favourite) have the National Science Centre on site in Glasgow in association with one in Dundee. The bridges and three public equares in Coventry, Leeds and York will help to revitalise the city centres.

Support for local communities is centred around 36 grants to local village and community halls. Environmental sustainability is the buzz word with the house of the future illustrating renewable energy designed by Richard Rogers partnerships and DCA at Wandsworth in south London.

Education has Everyman's library sending a million books to 4,500 schools in the country with CD-roms and the Welsh Centre in Cardiff as well as cultural events in Londonderry.

Two and a balf years ago the Millennium Commission was established as an independent body under the National Lottery Act 1993, one of five causes that shared 28p of every pound spent on the National Lottery. Today it represents the largest nongovernment funding investment in the United Kingdom social infrastructure.

Imaginative and constructive projects have to benefit people throughout the UK they also have to meet a deadline, the year ent regions. Representing that optimistic 2000. That is why this is the final phase scene were two foot bridges symbolising all though there is some money in the pot.



Money grows on trees: Part of the forest land near Ashby -de-la-Zouch that is to be helped with lottery funding

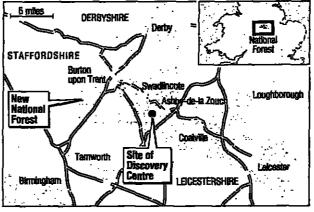
Photograph: Philip Meech

Nation's green heart to heal the scars of industrial past

A huge forest in the Midlands is to get a heart, with a £I3m Discovery Centre, country park and other attractions helped by lottery money. **Environment**

Correspondent Nicholas Schoon examines one of the largest derelict land reclamation projects in

Unnoticed and largely unknown, a vast forest the size of a county is starting to take shape in countryside scarred by mining and quarrying north of Birmingham. At the moment it consists of hundreds of thousands of



Yesterday this ambitious but unrecognised project got its best chance to date to acquire an identity, with the announcement that £6.2m of lottery money from the Millennium Commission would be injected into its

It was one of 71 schemes receiving £221m in the final round of grants from the commission, all of them due to be completed and open to the public by the end of 2000. Northern Ireland received more money per person than other region of the UK.

The money will go towards a forest park eventually covering 500 acres of derelict land, landscaped into the shape of a gigantic handprint, and a new National Forest Discovery Cen-

tre. There visitors will see virtually reality displays - computer generated, three-dimensional illusions showing what the mature forest will look like in 20 years time. They will learn about the ecology and history of woodlands in Britain and the world, and how their timber and other products can be sustainably exploited.

Plans for the forest were first announced by Conservative Government more than eight years ago. Its designated area, covering nearly 200 square miles. sprawls across parts of Staffordshire, Derbyshire and Leices-

The landscape has been ripped open by clay and gravel extraction and opencast coal mining. The local economy has also been hit hard by the closure of all of its deep mines, and this has contributed to the widespread dereliction of the landscape. The new country park and discovery centre will be sited on the remains of Rawdon Colliery, the last of Leicestershire's mines to close.

The project is backed by English Partnerships, the Government's land regeneration arm, the Forestry Commission, the Rural Development Commission and local councils. With yesterday's announcement, all but £1m of the total £13m needed has now been identified, with the rest to be raised by appeal.

The Dome will be fantastic - but don't ask me how, says Heseltine

The Millennium Dome will cause people to marvel, former deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine told a Commons select

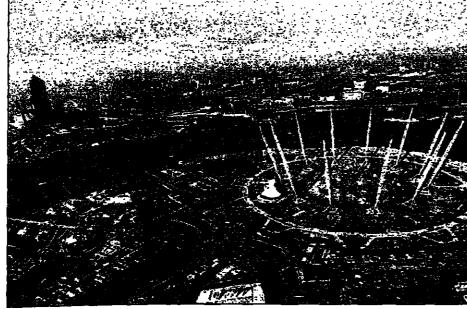
committee yesterday. But David Lister also heard him tell MPs that he did not know how to sell the vision to the public.

The select committee inquiring into the Millennium Dome was told by the former deputy prime minister Michael Heseltine that no one could yet say what the finished exhibition there would look like. But he promised: "I can tell you that 10 years from now people will marvel at what has happened."

He said of the £758m project in Greenwich: "It's a fantastic site and it's going to be quite wonderful but don't ask me

This failed to satisfy Labour MP Claire Ward, who fired a series of questions at Mr Heseltine, who oversaw the early stages of the project and remains involved as a Millennium Commissioner. She said: "You say 'it's going to be wonderful but don't ask me how'. That's why there's so much scepticism among the public.

"They see a Dome but they don't know what's going to be in it. Don't you think you should have sold the vision to the pub-



Mr Heseltine replied: "I just don't know how to do that. I don't see how you take a bombed out empty site and sell the finished package before you've actually got the package ... You have a bombed out site. How do you sell that vision? You simply say I believe in the fes-

Ms Ward responded: "I still think there should have been a little more substance to the idea because there was so much capital expenditure involved. We still don't have any share in

Mr Heseltine told the Culture, Media and Sport Com-

> EAGLE STAR Direct

mittee that the Dome would bring in millions of pounds from tourists. Asked why it wasn't going to be a permanent structure, he said: "If you'd gone for a traditional-looking structure you'd have been vilified by the modernists. If you'd gone for a modernist structure you'd have been vilified by the

Mr Heseltine went on to launch an attack on Labour's pre-election handling of the project. He accused the then opposition of approaching the scheme in a spirit of "unprin-cipled" and "macho" politics, which he said caused unneces-

> Before the election, Labour demanded assurances about the project before committing itself - on the grounds that it would inherit it in govern-

> Mr Heseltine said there was now no room for further serious delay: "There is a critical path and we're on it. The then opposition's behaviour before the election I regarded as regret-

> Tories' representative on the

Millengium Commission which is overseeing the Dome project, as well as on the special co-ordinating group.

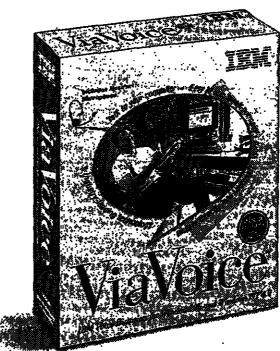
"As such, I have access to the information. Before the election, my role was played by Michael Montague, now Lord Montague. He knew everything about the project. He had all the information.

"He certainly gave the Commission the impression that he had consulted the equivalent and responsible people in the Labour Party. "What actually happened is

that it turned out that he was a busted flush. The moment the heat came on, he was swept aside effectively by Tony Blair and his colleagues, who in my view sought to make political macho politics of their determination to fix budgets.

"We were always going to fix budgets. Michael Montague knew what we were going to do. He had agreed to it and told us Labour had agreed to the procedures. So I did regard the jockeying before the election and the delay before the elec-Mr Heseltine is now the tion as unnecessary and un-

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War on drugs has failed to stop rising tide of addiction

Britain's efforts to tackle drug abuse are simply not working. Despite millions being spent on campaigns, a drug "epidemic" is developing and a radical approach is needed, Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent, talks to

the experts.

One in three children will grow up addicted to drugs, alcohol A study of children in a deprived and tobacco, the leading research charity Action on Addiction warned yesterday. But despite a massive investment in three illicit drugs. Many of drug education - £50m alone in those questioned viewed their cial issue and blight. The the last three years - it is fail- drugs activity as recreational ing to change young people's at- and "it was common for [them] titudes and behaviour.

"panda cars ... and pop propa- lematic or dangerous". ganda" we should be putting money into studies to find out sor John Strang, of Action on tremely an strange role model television, music and films."

Addiction and former head of the to choose when you look at the

Launching a £1m appeal for the charity, he warned there was an "epidemic still in development" with the number of herothree years. Despite policies to restrict supply, the price of heroin in real terms has halved between 1986 and 1996, suggesting significantly increased availability. At the same time, purity of the heroin has increased.

And in some areas of Britain drugs have become a way of life. area of Glasgow found that nearly a third of 12-14-year-olds had experimented with at least to be puzzled by the suggestion Rather than investing in that their drug use was prob-

Professor Strang said yesterday: "It is disappointing that

Government task force on drugs extent of the drugs problem, which dwarfs our own."

He said that the best way to deal with heroin was to apply market forces and treat it as anin addicts doubling in the last other business. By cutting off supplies effectively, prices would go up and many occasional or novice users would be dissuaded from trying the drug.

"It works the same way as alcohol or tobacco. If you increase the price by 10 per cent in real terms [the number of users will fall] 5 to 10 per cent over all." But he added that this would only work if it was coupled with help and rehabilitation. "It's too simplistic and con-

venient to isolate drugs as a so-Glasgow study shows the extent of drug use amongst young people and many see this as a positive, recreational part of their lives. We need credible education initiatives which can compete against all the other what will be effective in com- the new post of Drugs Tsar sources of information, such as bating drug abuse, said Profes- comes from the US. It is ex- friends, newspapers, magazines,



Royal farewell: The Royal Yacht Britannia passing Greenwich yesterday on her way up the Thames for the last time before The vessel will be docked at the Pool of London until 21 November before leaving for her last royal duties in Portsmouth

IN BRIEF Czech gypsies

The flow of Czech gypsy asylum seekers into Britain switched from Dover to the centre of

refused aid

ster City Council leaders called on the Government to intervene. A total of 60 Czech gypsies arrived at an advice and assessment centre in Westminster seeking asylum. Nikki Page, Tory chairman of the Westminster City Council's housing committee, said: "The Government has got to act. Local government

cannot cope with these people." The asylum seekers told ofcoach to London to avoid a birds such as the Dotterel and British National Party protest Ptarmigan. But Donald Demarch in Dover tomorrow, but war, Secretary of State for Scotthey were put back on a coach to return to Dover last night.

Ms Page estimated that in Westminster alone, the asylum seekers were costing £169,000 a week - equivalent to an extra £1.70p per week on the rates.

Ferry operators were yes terday taking legal advice after the Government threatened criminal charges over their refusal to pay for the return of Czech and Slovak gypsy asylum seekers at Dover. The immigration minister, Mike O'Brien, accused directors of the two biggest companies, P&O and Stena, of "flouting" the law following a heated meeting at the Home Office.

--- Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

IRA denial

The IRA yesterday issued a fresh denial that the organisation is split over the maintenance of its ceasefire and the continuation of the peace process which has taken Sinn Fein into multi-party talks at Stormont.

The group insisted that it remained "intact, united and committed", describing reports of major disagreements and wholesale resignations as fanciful and greatly exaggerated.

Republican sources admit that a small number of resignations have taken place from both the IRA and Sinn Fein, but vehemently deny claims that 20 scnior IRA figures have resigned and that 35 members of the organisation's key South Armagh unit have walked out. - David McKittrick

Ireland Correspondent



Mountain railway rides into a storm

The Government's stock among conservationists plunged yesterday with the approval of most of the public money needed to build a funicular railway on Cairn Gorm, one of Britain's London yesterday as Westminhighest mountains. Only a courtroom challenge now appears to stand in the way of the town's £17m project.

> Scottish Office ministers were divided over the railway, intended to boost the Aviemore ski area and create a yearround attraction. The semiarctic Cairngorms are valued by mountaineers for their wild quality and by conservationists land, has supported the view of local councillors and the quan-

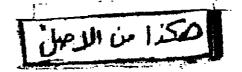
provide 50 new jobs. The next hurdle will be on Tuesday at the Edinburgh Court of Sessions when the RSPB and Worldwide Fund for Nature will argue the railway would breach European environmental law.

Cell discove

Yesterday, backers of the scheme were believed to be lodging a £2m application for European Regional Development funding. This, together with the court case, could be a deciding factor in the success of the project. The start of work on the railway will bring to an end a long-running political row, inherited by the Government ficials that they had taken a as a breeding ground for rare from the Tories, which has seen ministers at odds on the value of the scheme. Bill Wright, of the Cairn Gorm campaign, said the mountain habitat.







Breast cancer treatment is variable and substandard

A woman's risk of undergoing a mastectomy for breast cancer ranges from zero to 80 per cent depending on the surgeon to whom she is referred. Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor. says the finding adds to fears about low standards of treatment

in the UK.

Way

torm

A world-wide review of breast cancer treatment has established that for women with early-stage tumours removing or fewer patients. the lump is as safe as removing the whole breast, provided it is caseloads of more than 20 paaccompanied by radiotherapy and drug treatment.

programme was set up in 1988 to detect cancers at a stage when the small size of the tumours al-

lowed for less radical surgery. Yet the treatment women actually receive varies widely, depending on the individual

a study published tomorrow.

The review of 600 postmenopausal women with breast cancer who were treated by 35 surgeons has shown that the mastectomy rate varied from nil to 80 per cent. The variation was not linked to size of tumour or severity of disease

The unnamed surgeon with the 80 per cent mastectomy rate had performed the operation on eight out of the ten breast cancer patients he had treated during the period of the study in 1991-92.

Five surgeons had treated only one patient and another study did not receive radiofive surgeons had managed five

Those surgeons with higher tients had a lower mastectomy rate - at 15 per cent, suggest-The NHS breast screening ing a more modern approach to treatment - than those with smaller caselouds.

International comparisons show that 45 per cent of British women diagnosed with breast cancer die within five years

sponsible for them, according to in France and 40 per cent in currence by not having radio-Germany. The Cancer Retherapy because the quality .. search Campaign has blamed of life must suffer." the discrepancy on poor stan-

dards of treatment in the UK.

in the British Medical Journal,

was conducted in the former

south-east Thames region of the

that region had the highest

number of screen detected can-

cers operated on by surgeons

with a caseload of less than 10

breast cancer patients a year.

therapy, including 51 of 317

patients with unfavourable tu-

mours. Radiotherapy has been

shown to reduce local recur-

rence of the cancer in the breast,

regardless of whether the tu-

or unfavourable, although it

does not affect overall survival.

from the Breast Screening

Quality Assurance Centre at

King's College Hospital, Lon-

The authors of the study,

One in five patients in the

In addition, although most surgeons gave the hormonal drug tamoxifen, 26 of the 600 The current study, published patients did not receive it, despite the fact that is has been shown to have a "clear survival benefit" for post-menopausal NHS, covering Kent, east Suswomen, and the benefits outsex and south-east London. Figures for 1995-96 show that weigh the risk of side effects.

Chemotherapy, which may delay local recurrence of the disease in some patients, was given to less than 3 per cent of the women, but the authors say the evidence may have been too new to influence treatment decisions at the time of the study in 1991-92.

They warn that more consistency in treatment is required that does not depend on individual "surgical preference" and mour is classified as favourable that the current guidelines issued to surgeons are deficient.

The NHS Breast Screening programme has a target of cutting deaths by a quarter by the venr 2000. The authors say: "Sub-optimal treatment ... compared with 21 per cent in don, say. "Women should not be could compromise [the tarpreference of the surgeon re- the United States, 35 per cent put at increased risk of local re- get's] success."



Womb to water: Doctors have now warned mothers that staying in the water too

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arrangement fees,

valuation fees,

long after the birth without clamping the umbilical cord could damage the baby

Warning over birthing pools

Birthing pools, in which women deliver underwater, may ease the passage from womb to world but they carry a formerly unrecognised danger to the baby Doctors at the Chelsea and Westminster hospital, London, report a case in which a baby girl narrowly escaped permanent brain damage after being born in a pool hired by her mother at home.

The girl was born normally and the mother stayed in the pool cradling her while waiting for the afterbirth. When this had not arrived after 30 minutes, the mother got out and the midwife clamped the umbilical cord carrying the blood vessels linking the mother with the baby.

The next day the baby was floppy and not feeding properly. Hospital tests showed she had very thick blood with almost twice the normal quantity of red blood cells. Thick blood carries a danger that it may sludge in small blood vessels in the brain causing permanent damage. In this case the baby was treated to dilute her blood and made a complete recovery.

Dr Ed Abrahamson and colleagues, writing in the Lances medical journal, say the problem was probably due to blood draining from the mother's afterbirth into the baby while they were still in the pool In a normal birth the blood vessels in the umbilical cord constrict on exposure to the air but in a birthing pool where the water is kept at around 36C cord blood vessels may stay open much longer.

The doctors advise mothers using birthing pools either to get out of the water or to clamp the cord within a minute or two of delivery of the baby.

— Jeremy Laurance

Cell discovery leads to drugs rethink

Scientists are claiming that a discovery about the way cancer cells grow could lead to kinder treatments that are also more effective. Jeremy Laurance reports on a surprise finding.

Stopping cancers growing may be simpler than has been thought. Researchers have found that the signalling mechanism which determines whether a cancer cell lives or dies is located on its surface, not inside it protected by an impermeable membrane, and should therefore be an easier target for

in the US journal Science, opens the way for a new generation of cancer drugs that would be less toxic than those currently used. Instead of poisoning the cancer cells, the new drugs would manipulate the appropriate on/off switches on their surface. This should mean an easier and safer way of treating patients with cancer.

Professor Gerard Evan, head of the research team, said: "The results have been ing cancer cells without damaging normal totally unexpected. There was no reason to ones. believe that the "abort" programme that destroys tumour cells should operate via Wylie, professor of experimental patholo-

The growth of cells is known to be con-Scientists from the Imperial Cancer Re- taking over the body. In cancer, the suicide crease survival rates.

search Fund say the discovery, published programme becomes blocked, leading to uncontrolled growth of the cells, resulting

> Professor Evan said: "We have now found that the suicide programme is routed out of the cell and then back in through its surface. This new discovery of how cell death is triggered is very important for understanding how cancer cells arise. It also suggests novel ways of selectively attack-

Commenting on the finding, Andrew gy at the University of Edinburgh, said: "This new discovery will mean that drug trolled by a process known as apoptosis, or companies can start to research a new gencell suicide, which prevents any rogue cells eration of cancer drugs that may well in-



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Ministers want to ban calculators in class

The Government is ignoring curriculum advisers who say calculators are not bad for young children's maths. Judith Judd finds out why ministers want to banish them from the classroom.

Ministers have spurned recommendations from their own curriculum advisers and are trying to bar calculators for all primary school pupils. Angry mathematicians say the decision flies in the face of research which shows that calculators are not to blame for the nation's poor performance in maths.

Calculators have long been under attack for damaging children's mental arithmetic. Before the election, David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, said that he intended to ban calculators for children under eight. But an unpublished report for ministers from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority found no evidence of a link between calculators and poor mental arithmetic among infant pupils. Now Estelle Morris, the

schools standards minister, has dence that the use of calculators written to the authority saying that the use of calculators should be strongly discouraged not only for the under-eights but for all pupils up to 11. Even in secondary schools, she says, their use should be reviewed.

Ministers have discovered that they cannot enforce a ban on calculators without changing the law but they are insisting on guidance to teachers warning against their use.

Ms Morris has told Sir chairman, that the recommendations "do not go far enough. Our firm view is that the Government's drive to raise standards of numeracy in primary schools would be best served by strongly discouraging" calculator use in primary schools. Mental calculation must be accorded a central place in the teaching of mathematics and should always be used as the first resort method of calculation."

However, the report on calculators for infants says: "The evidence ... indicates that the use of calculators is generally infrequent and there are few schools in which pupils have culators." Nor is there any evi- side."

makes much difference to pupils' maths, the report says. Other features of teaching are much more likely to be to blame.

Professor Sig Prais, of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, said he was unconvinced by the report. "You have to get the basic mental skills firmly implanted and that cannot be done if children are using calculators."

The recent Third International Maths and Science Sur-William Stubbs, the authority's vey found that the five highest scoring countries used calculators much less frequently than the low scoring countries.

But Professor Margaret Brown, of the Government's numeracy task force, pointed out that, in England, the 13-year-olds who did best in the survey were those who used calculators most frequently. "Teachers are not using calculators instead of doing mental arithmetic. They are using them to develop skills such as developing ideas of number and for reinforcing what people have learnt," she said.

"Children like calculators. They are motivating and they show that the maths at school ready and regular access to cal- is like the maths people do out-



Abreast of fashion: Olympic bronze medallist Graeme Smith trying out Speedo's new unified goggles and hat in the pool at Hyatt Carlton Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid Tower in London. Speedo claims their Speed Mask makes swimmers go faster

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Meningitis drug hope

Hopes of finding a way to stem meningitis child deaths were raised yesterday by results from the first patient trial of a new

Despite treatment with antibiotics, between 20-50 per cent of children who contract the dangerous blood infection meningococcal septicaemia die, usually within 24 hours. Those who survive are often left disabled from brain injury or suffer gangrene leading to the loss of limbs.

The new drug, a genetically engineered version of a protein produced by human immune cells to combat infection, dramatically cut the expected number of deaths in a small group of seriously ill children. The researchers, led by Dr Brett Giroir at the University of Texa in the United States said the results were far better than expected for such ill patients.

Scientists have now launched a major trial of the drug, recombinant bactericidal/permeability-increasing protein (rBPI), in Britain, the US and Canada.

Bloom's kosher court appeal

The man who ran Bloom's, the famous Jewish restaurant in the East End of London, yesterday launched a High Court attempt to overturn a religious court's decision to ban him from the kosher food business.

Michael Bloom lost his livelihood after non-kosher meat was found in a refrigerator at at the restaurant in Whitechapel, London, two years ago.

Michael Supperstone QC, for Mr Bloom, said Mr Bloom was "kept in the dark" about a crucial statement from a driver confessing that he was to blame for the serious breach of strict Jewish dietary law.

He said the London rabbi) had put Mr Bloom out of business, even though the judge presiding over the tribunal knew of the driver's confession, and asked the High Court to order a re-hearing by the religious court.

Bogus officials strip boy, 5

A mother was "horrified" to discover that two social workers who carried out a strip-search on her five-year-old son at her home were hogus officials, police said yesterday.

Devon and Cornwall Police are hunting the man and woman involved in the incident in Plymouth on Wednesday. Sergeant Nick Yates said: "The child was physically uninjured, but we do not know what effect this has had on him. We want to hear from anyone who thinks they might have had a visit from this couple."

The white couple were allowed into the home in the North Prospect area after producing some form of identification. They told the 31-year-old mother complaints had been made that her son had

cigarette ends, said the police. The police said the man was about 45, 6ft tall, of average build with short mousy hair, and had a moustache with curly ends and a goatee beard. The woman was aged 35, 5ft 2 in. with bobbed, streaked hair.

Mortgages

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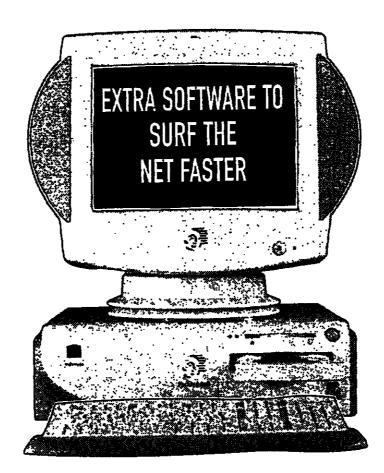


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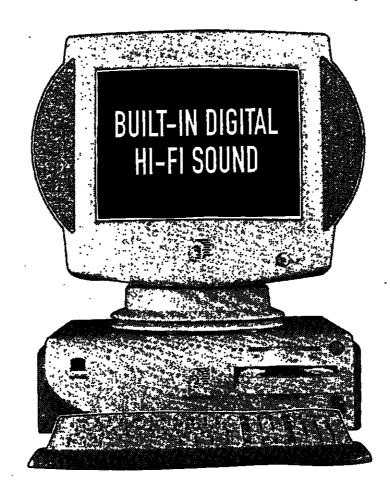


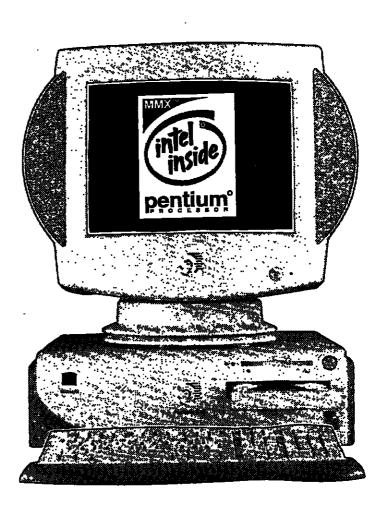


15 officials

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boy, 5





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Hitmen kill the birdman of Palma

The man with the biggest collection of parrots, macaws and cockatoos in Europe was shot dead yesterday in Mallorca, along with his eight-year-old son and maid. Police think they were victims of a Mafia-style "hit

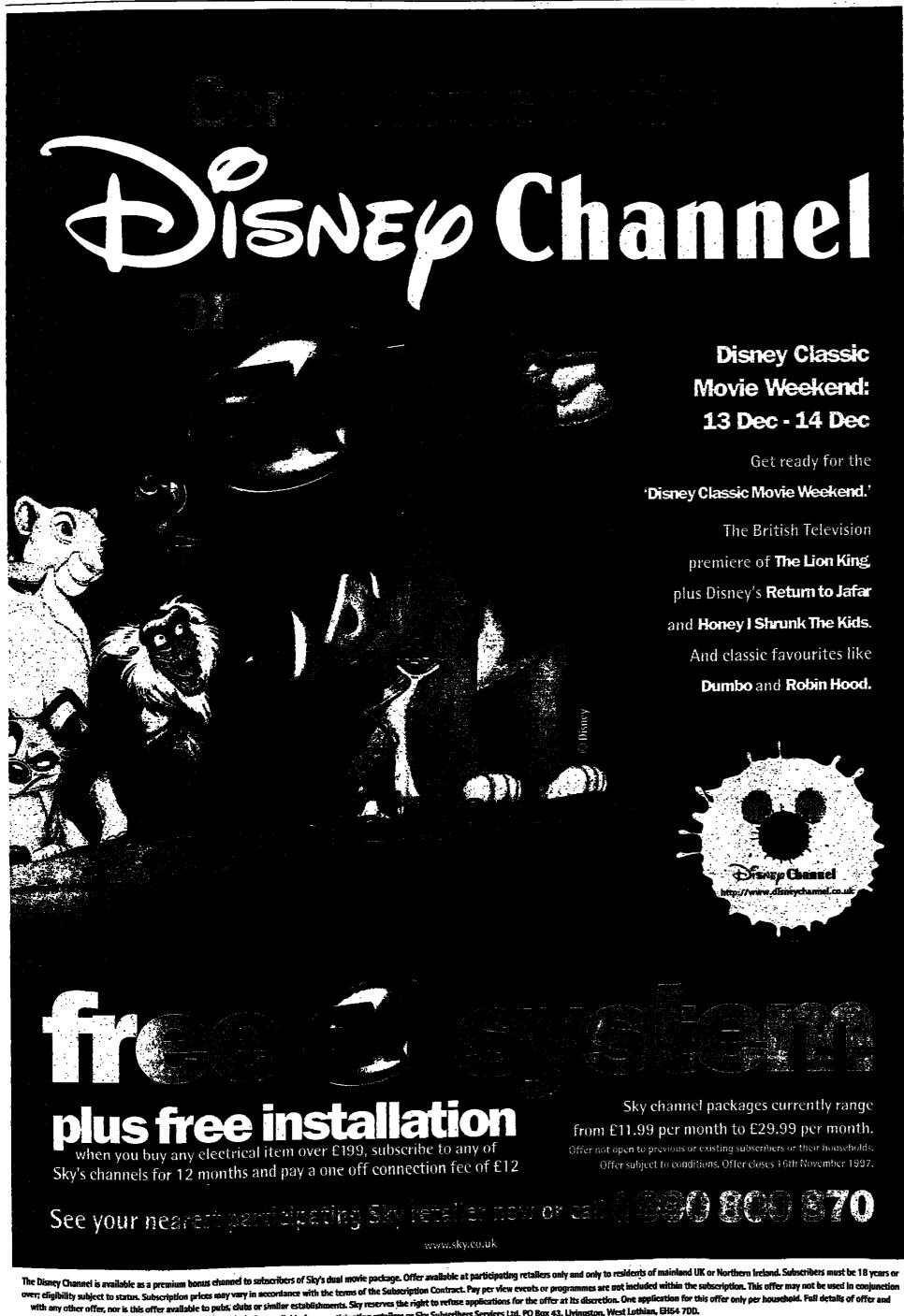
Manfred Meisel, 49, a beer importer known on Mallorca as "the Beer King" and manager of a bar that employed 90 staff, was found with with a bullet in his head in his villa near Palma. He had told friends of feeling under threat since March, perhaps because of the enormous amount of cash he handled in connection with his exotic birds, which he imported from the Philippines and Singapore.

No money or credit cards were taken from the villa, and not one valuable bird freed from 400 cages. The killers scaled a spiked perimeter fence and eluded five guard dogs. Meisel's son Patrick was shot twice in the temple while he was sleeping. Claudia Leisen, 30, who tended the newly hatched chicks every four hours, appeared to have had her wrists tied before she was shot in the back. - Elizabeth Nash, Madrid

(E)



Coastal link: Mont-St-Michel, on the south-west coast of France, surrounded by sand at low tide. The French government is to Photograph: Reuters/jean-Yves Destoux spend an estimated Fr500m (£53m) on a seven-year-project to protect the bay



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A new Kohl caper - but not so funny

Did Helmut Kohl know about his secret agents' hare-brained scheme to smuggle plutonium into Germany? Yesterday was the moment of truth. But Imre Karac, in Bonn says that before a parliamentary inquiry, the Chancellor was overtaken by amnesia.

Some of the facts of German dabbling in state-sponsored terrorism are simple enough. On 10 August 1994, smack in the middle of Mr Kohl's re-election campaign, agents at Munich airport arrested three men carrying a radioactive briefcase. Contents: 363 grams of weapons-grade plutonium. Origin: the former USSR.

The find was hailed as a great triumph for the security services, the BND, and by extension, for the government A tiny consignment of low-grade Munich. uranium smuggled into Germany had greatly alarmed the public. After Munich, Mr Kohl would be able to go to the voters and assure them that he had everything under control.

Things did not quite work out like that, because somebody let it be known that the plutonium affair was a BND stunt from beginning to end. There is little doubt now that Bernd Schmidbauer, head of the BND, set it up and arranged payments to the hapless couriers - a Colombian and two Spaniards - who have since been thrown into jail.

Opposition politicians claim

aim was to give Mr Kohl a preelection boost, and to force Russia to tighten security at its nuclear reactors. Mr Schmidbauer is a a friend and political appointee of Mr Kohl's and has his office in the chancellery in Bonn. He remains in charge.

Three years after the event, Mr Kohl was finally popped the question yesterday by members of a parliamentary committee. "When did you find out about the plutonium caper?" He sweated and wriggled in his seat, but perked up noticeably when the cakes arrived. It was on the weekend of 12th and 13th August," he replied confidently.

But were you not seen having dinner with Mr Schmidbauer at a restaurant before that?" he was asked. Dinner? Restaurant? His memory was failing now. "I really don't know," he shrugged. The Chancellor had a perfect alibit he was on holiday in Austria at the time when the Lufthansa airliner landed with its deadly cargo in

This went on for a while longer. His inquisitors from the opposition parties probed, but the Chancellor, reputed to have a telephone book of a brain, just could not recall a thing. "Can you remember anything at all?" shouted a red-faced Social Democrat. - "I cannot recall what I did on a particular day." Mr Kohl repeated.

Another Social Democrat changed tack. "We have information that the people who carried out the Munich job took part in two other similar stunts. he said. "Where did you get. that," frowned the Chancellor. "It says so in the letter you wrote that the operation was master- to President Yeltsin." Mr Kohl minded by Mr Schmidbauer. Its could not remember that, either.

EU officials face inquiry

nounced yesterday that it was lifting diplomatic immunity from three high-ranking officials

suspected of corruption. the commission's tourism unit commission.

The European Commission an- to bogus schemes in exchange for bribes.

The removal of immunity means the three officials could face prosecution. George The move clears the way for Tzoanos, the Greek former the Belgian police to intensify head of the tourism unit, spent nvestigations into allegations— a year in jail awaiting a decision that funds earmarked for the on prosecution but the Belgian 1993 European Year of police complained their in-Tourism, had been paid out by quiries were hindered by the

'When Barclays got involved, the prefects started picking on the younger pupils' The Haven High School, Boston, Lines, on their award-winning prefect-led reading scheme.

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Arab nations stay away from talks in snub to Clinton

The Americans have advertised the Arab-Israeli economic conference in Qatar this weekend as a cornerstone of the Middle East 'peace'. But it looks likely to turn into farce, Robert Fisk writes, because only four of the 2! Arab states intend to turn up.

Humiliation is not the word for it. President Bill Clinton was on the phone to the Saudis. Martin Indyk - former ambassador to Israel and formerly leader of one of the most prominent pro-Israeli lobby groups in the United States - toured the Middle East, pleading with the Arabs to attend. And the result? An unprecedented snub from Arab nations who believe the US has betrayed both the Middle East "peace" and the honest broker role which Washington originally claimed for itself in the Middle East.

Goodbye the Saudis, who have lost faith in the US's pro-Israeli stewardship of the Oslo agreement. Goodbye Syria, which suspects Israel will never give back the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. Goodbye Morocco, Washington's friend in the Maghreb. Goodbye Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain - headquarters to the US fleet in the Gulf - and goodbye Sudan and Libya and Algeria and even the Arab League. Goodbye Lebanon, theatre for the only remaining Arab-Israeli war. Goodbye the Palestine Liberation Organization - supposedly the beneficiary (with Israel) of the Oslo accords. And goodbye Egypt, whose President suggested that if US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright wanted to hear its views, it could always chat to the Egyptian ambassador to Doha, capital of the luckless Qatar which is hosting

No wonder the Americans are having second thoughts about attacking Saddam Hussein yet again for his intransigence. Would Oman and Yemen or Jordan turn up if they for the conference, most of which is likedid? No wonder there comes only silence from the US State Department, whose acolytes have been travelling the Arab world for help. Only Qatar itself, Jordan loyally proving the integrity of its peace treaty with Israel - Yemen and Kuwait are prepared to turn up for the conference that is sup-

posed, in Washington's immortal cliché, "to put the peace process back on track."

Kuwait, still fearful of President Saddam, could be expected to turn up in Doha on Sunday. King Hussein of Jordan, despite the Israeli attempt to murder a Hamas official in Amman, wished to show its loyalty to the agreements it signed with Israel. Oman and Yemen - scarcely lynch-pins of the "peace process" - will take their seats, but Oman will send only a low-level economic delegation led by an undersecretary of the commerce ministry. This is the measure to which the hopes of a Middle East peace have fallen since Benjamin Natanyahu became Prime Minister of Israel and refused to give back Golan, built more Jewish settlements on occupied Arab land and denied the possibility of a Palestinian state.

The Israelis, of course, will be turning up in Qatar in force, led by David Levy, the foreign minister, supported by Mrs Albright and the US commerce secretary, William Daley. But as a symbol of future peace, the Qatar conference is a disaster. Blaming Mr Netanyahu for the collapse of the "peace process" - and those quotation marks are becoming ever more important - Egyptian President Hosni Moubarak has called the conference "meaningless". Barring last minute changes of heart, he is right.

No reference was made by the Arabs to Pulestinian suicide bombs in Jerusalem. And the Israelis will be the first to suggest the Arabs are denying the very spirit of the "peace process". Moshe Fogel, the Israeli government spokesman, remarked dismissively that more than 90 per cent of Israel's trade is with "developed [sic] countries" ~ little over 1 per cent with the Arabs - and that it is the Arabs who will lose by boycotting the Qatar summit. In reality, it is US credibility that once again stands to lose, as American leaders fail, yet again, to force Israel to abide by the Oslo agreement.

International companies - Mobil, Occidental, Merck, Philips and Petronas - have contributed £1.89m along with the Qataris ly to prove a worthless investment. Qatar itself has been condemned by both Saudi Arabia and Egypt for holding the forum when Israel continues to build Jewish settlements on Arab land which is occupied. Or, in the dishonest words of the State Department, "disputed" land.





Rabin (left), killed by Yigal Amir (above). Below: the right-wing



Shin Bet informer who could have saved Rabin

ued enthusiasm for new Jewish

settlements in Arab East

Jerusalem, Mr Blair expressed

"great concern about the state

of the peace process", and Mr

Cook made clear that Britain

A commission headed by a retired chief justice yesterday censured Israel's Shin Bet security service for its lax handling of a right-wing informer who failed to mention that his best friend was planning to assassinate the prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin.

The informer was Avishai Raviv, who has been at the centre of a web of conspiracy theories since his double-agent role was revealed two years ago. His friend was Yigal Amir, now serving a life sentence for murdering Rabin in November

In its report, now declassified, Judge Meir Shamgar's inquiry found that Amir had boasted frequently of his plan to harm the prime minister. But, rather than warn the security service, Raviv told Amir that a biblical law which prescribes the gations of complicity by the Shin authenticity."

BLAIR WARNS OVER JERUSALEM SETTLEMENTS

The Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, held "friendly and constructive" talks with Tony Blair and Robin Cook at the start of a two-day visit to London yesterday...

to Rabin.

prime minister."

But Britain emphasised its "strongly supports" calls by unhappiness at Israel's contin- the US Secretary of State, year.

mission says, "that in his reports

of his intention to injure the

death penalty for Jews who en- Bet in the Rabin assassination danger their own people applied but is scathing about the way Raviv was handled in his nine "It is astonishing", the com- years as an informer: "We are dealing with an agent whose be-

MP, conspiring to torch a buildon Yigal Amir, he did not men- haviour was replete with provoing, smashing Arab house and car windows, and training and tion, or so much as hint at, cation, who was not properly Amir's well-known expressions under the control of his handlers arming bully boys. - who on occasion endorsed his involvement in extreme activi-The report dismisses alle- ties designed to increase his

The agent brought in a violated the law repeatedly in gave them. — Eric Silver, Jerusalem

Madeleine Albright, for a "time-

out" on the building of new set-

East peace process will be "a key

priority" during the British

presidency of the European

Union in the first half of next

- Steve Crawshaw

Raviv ignored warnings

about these activities, which

included beating up Palestini-

ans, attacking a left-wing Israeli

tlements. Britain says the Middle

the knowledge that he was exempt from responsibility because of his official backing. His supervision by the Shin Bet was ineffectual, and in most cases they learned about what happened only after the event."

Politicians are now demanding that Raviv be charged with not acting to prevent the assassination. Some MPs want his Shin Bet controllers to be charged, too.

Raviv was recruited by the Shin Bet in 1987 when he was 20. He had already been active in Rabbi Meir Kahane's ultranationalist Kach movement. Why, then, did he agree to inform on his friends? Not for money. Rather he seems to have enjoyed the excitement. The Shin Bet men were his hegreat deal of information," the roes. But he was fatally selecreport concludes, but he also tive in which information he



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FBI abandons investigation into air disaster

The FBI has told the families of the 230 people killed when TWA Flight 800 crashed in July 1996 that it found absolutely no evidence that a criminal act brought the aircraft down. The FBI is suspending its investigation. But some of the families now intend to campaign to have all 747s grounded as potentially

New York (AP) - The Federation Bureau of Investigation is suspending its inquiry into the crash in 1996 of the TWA jet that killed 230 people. "Our investigation has found absolutely no evidence to cause us to believe that the TWA Flight 800 tragedy was the result of a criminal act," wrote James Kallstrom, the FBI assistant director who headed the criminal investigation, in a letter. .

Mr Kallstrom confirmed on Wednesday night that the FBI had sent the letter to the victims' families, but he gave no details "as it is a private matter between the FBI and the families at this point". The FBI plans to hold a news conference next week to issue a comprehensive report on the criminal probe's findings, a law-enforcement source said.

Mr Kallstrom wrote that the FBI would continue to be involved in the investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) of the July 1996 crash of the Paris-bound aircraft. "Every lead has been covered, all possible avenues of investigation exhaustively explored and every resource of the United States government has been brought to bear in this investigation,"

The NTSB is continuing to try to learn what caused vapours inside the empty fuel tank to explode, shattering the aircraft short-

New York. The FBI has said repeatedly it has found no evidence that the Boeing 747 was downed by a bomb or missile.

The FBI began its investigation minutes after the jumbo jet burst into a fireball, killing everyone on board and scattering wreckage across a five-square-mile area of the Atlantic Ocean, about 10 miles off Long Island. Eyewitnesses reported streaks of light in the sky just before the explosion, prompting a team of investigators to focus on the missile theory. The FBI flatly rejected allegations by conspiracy theorists that an errant US Navy missile was to blame.

"When it first happened, I thought bomb," said Joe Lychner of Houston, who lost his wife and two small daughters in the crash. "But when I look at all the testing the FBI did and they found nothing, I am convinced this had to be mechanical."

FBI agents interviewed more than 7,000 people, including everyone who touched or had access to the aircraft at Kennedy Airport and in Athens, Greece, where the flight originated. The FBI and NTSB reconstructed the wreckage inside a hangar and then scrutinized the holes and punctures for any evidence of a crime.

Michel Breistroff of Paris, whose 25year-old son was killed, said he received Mr Kallstrom's letter on Wednesday. He said he and other family members overseas now plan a campaign to have all 747s grounded. "This plane is obviously a dangerous plane," he said. "It took investigators all these months and all these millions of dollars to tell us that."

TWA spokesman Donn Walker in St Louis said the airline did not know the FBI had sent letters indicating that it was ending its criminal investigation. "They've been hinting for a while so it's really not a surprise," he said. He added that the company was frustrated that federal investigators have not been able to determine what caused the crash. "We just want answers. ly after take-off from Kennedy Airport in We just want to know what happened."



Poll protest stifled

Algerian police deployed in force in central Algiers yesterday to stop supporters of political parties, including one in the government coalition, from marching against what they termed election fraud. Most of the supporters were prevented from reaching Algiers centre where the gathering had been

Europe's envoys return to Tehran America joins

Iran and the European Union for Luxembourg, which holds agreed to the proposal. It quothave struck a deal to allow EU the EU presidency, said most of ambassadors to return to the EU ambassadors withdrawn Tehran. The agreement follows from Tehran after the court months of diplomatic impasse finding last April would be which had embarrassed both

EU ambassadors were withdrawn from Iran six months ago, finding that the Iranian government had ordered the murder of Kurdish dissidents in Germany. Tehran had insisted ambassadors, the German envoy must come last, a condition that the EU had resisted. Iran has denied any involvement in the 1992 killing of four Iranian Kurdish dissidents in Berlin.

166M-2

returning to the Islamic republic last night. EU governments had given Luxembourg a mandate to prompted by a Berlin court negotiate with Iran on the return of the envoys. In a state-

ment, Luxembourg's foreign ministry, speaking on behalf of the EU, said: "After the election that when the EU returned its of a new Iranian president and the formation of a new government, the time has come to resolve the problem of the return of the ambassadors."

The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted a foreign ministry But yesterday a spokesman spokesman as saying Tehran had

ed "political quarters" as saying Iran's decision was partly due to strong EU and French support for a recent \$2bn deal led by the French oil giant Total,

which went against US sanctions against the Islamic republic. The United States has noticed a toning down of hostile rhetoric from Iran since a new government took over there three months ago, a senior US official said on Wednesday. The State Department's newly appointed Middle East chief, Martin Indyk, said that while Washington had not detected any concrete foreign policy changes in Tehran, a US conditional offer of dialogue with

Iran remained on the table.

murder hunt

FBI agents have been sent to Pakistan in connection with the killings of four American oil company employees, the US Attorney General Janet Reno

She declined to comment when asked if the killings might have been linked to the recent US conviction of a Pakistani, Mir Aimal Kasi, for murdering two CIA employees in 1993. She also declined to declare the killings a terrorist act.

Election by

Gunmen in Karachi killed four American men and their Pakistani driver on Wednesday. Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif yesterday gave President Bill Clinton his condolences.





A corrupt police force haunted by its criminal record Corruption has once more raised

its ugly head within the Hong Kong police. The authorities have moved quickly to try to deal with it, but Stephen Vines in Hong Kong sees worrying signs for the future.

The Hong Kong government is worried. It issued a statement this week saying it was determined to maintain the police force "as one of the finest, upholding law and order, with integrity, honesty and professionalism"

The statement came as a response to views expressed by various people concerning a number of incidents". Top of the list are the embarrassing circumstances under which the police have been forced to freeze all promotions following the arrest of eight officers on corruption charges connected with promotion boards.

These arrests have sent shock waves through both the police force and the public who fear that the rampant corruption which made the police notorious during the Seventies is re-emerging.

Few details have been given about the arrests by Hong Kong's powerful Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), but it has been confirmed that officers, including two chief inspectors, are suspected of bribery offences in connection with promotions to the rank of sergeant. Decisions over the promotion of more than 1,000 officers have been frozen while investigations are in progress,

The ICAC appears to be making a clear statement that despite the change of sovereignty it is still in business.

America join

murder hunt

Hong Kong has an unusually large police force, with 438 policemen for every 100,000 members of the public, one of the highest ratios in the world.

The high level of policing is given as one reason for low levels of crime, but it was of public frustration with police corruption, not so long ago that a great deal of crime was generated by the police force itself. holder having to pay off local constables Desk sergeants in local police stations became millionaires as they controlled the dis-

tribution of bribes and allocation of confidence could only be restored by the protection rackets.

The force was so riddled with corruption that post-war colonial governments avoided confronting the issue, fearing it would lead to the total breakdown of law and order. So powerful were corrupt policemen in the Sixties that they succeeded in getting a committee of inquiry to lay the blame for a series of riots on the territory's few prominent anti-police corruption campaigners.

However, public unease about the police was growing and the government was forced to respond. Investigations into the corruption of very senior officers revealed that they had ferreted away millions of dol-



Godber: Senior officer convicted of corruption

lars. The most notorious culprit was a Briton, former senior superintendent Peter Godber. Even after his arrest he managed to board a plane for Singapore and return to Britain. The public was outraged and campaigned for his return to face trial.

The Godber case broke the floodgates which stretched down to the smallest stall to remain in business. Sir Murray MacLehose, who was then governor, decided that

establishment of the ICAC. When it came into being in 1974 it was overwhelmed with inquiries into police corruption. A way was found to bring Godber back from London and he was extradited on charges of accepting a bribe for the promotion of a police officer.

Godber's conviction opened the door for aggressive prosecutions of police officers by the ICAC. Many corrupt sergeants fled to Taiwan, where there was no extradition treaty. The arrest of police officers peaked in 1977, provoking the nearest Hong Kong has come to a police revolt, when the ICAC headquarters was besieged by angry members of the force demanding the release of their colleagues.

A dangerous stand-off developed. The government offered a partial amnesty to get the police back to work. It virtually let off all officers suspected of more minor crimes committed before the beginning of the year. The controversial amnesty was only partially mitigated by a change to the police law giving the Commissioner of Police summary dismissal powers.

The experience of the Seventies is embedded in Hong Kong's folk memory. Countless surveys have shown that one of the biggest worries about last July's transfer of power was that it would lead to an upsurge of corruption, especially among the police, who have secured a far better reputation in recent years. A survey conducted by the ICAC, a year before the handover, found three-quarters of those questioned believed the commission's role "would become more important as 1997 drew near". Just before the handover, the ICAC recorded a disturbing increase in reports of corruption in public bodies and government departments but not in the police.

The public is worried that the bad old days might be coming back, although astonishingly, the new government has responded to this concern by suggesting that the main watchdog, the ICAC, should be shorn of the word "Independent" in its Eng-



Crime busters?. Hong Kong has one of the highest ratios of police to public in the world

Election bypasses the people

hoping to join China's parlia-

However, the NPC is not fa- process. mous for its independence of mind. The carefully selected is not the only difference, as the serve exclusive access to inforpeople who "elect" its members are not expected to be any more independently-minded than those they elect. Fortunately for the organisers, many of the electors are also candidates, so there is less scope for confusion.

Hong Kong is holding its first election for 36 deputies since the change to Chinese sovereignty. As the word election has a different meaning in China

Nominations opened yesterday some discomfort over the fact plied about the candidates, or ple - chaired by Ting Chee-Irwa, tive - are involved in the to apply it in Hong Kong.

> delegates discovered during a mation, they are also confident three-day meeting to lay down the rules of election. Even in Hong Kong's pro-Peking circles votes are usually taken by ballot, or by a show of hands. However, the Chinese tradition is to pass resolutions by acclaim, signified by bouts of hand clapping. This does not give dissenters even an opportunity to

register disapproval. The public will not be alfrom in Hong Kong, there is lowed to see information sup-

for candidates from Hong Kong that only 424 hand-picked peo- even know who nominated them, as on the Chinese mainment, the National People's Hong Kong's new chief execu- land, so there was no reason not

The electors are not only The number of those voting confident about the need to preof their incorruptibility. They decided not to devise penalties for election fraud or corruption on the grounds that they were sufficiently self-disciplined not to be tempted into malpractice. It was also decided that candidates with a criminal record need not burden electors with this information. This is just as well as a number of likely candidates have such records.

IN THE

INDEPENDENT

NEXT WEEK

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the new

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League

Tables

— Stephen Vines

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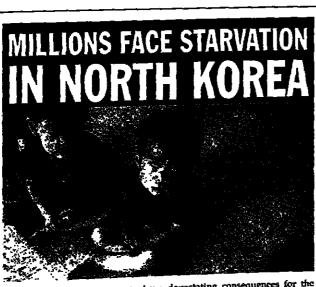
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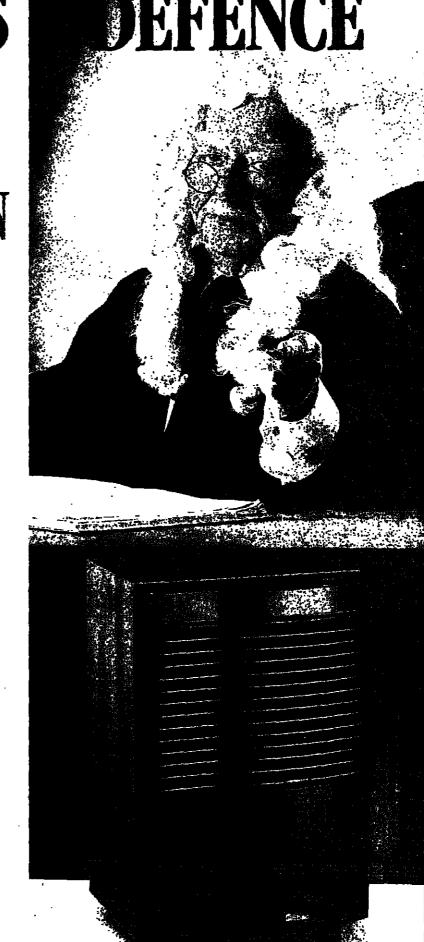


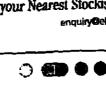
This winter may prove to have devastoting conseque people of North Korea. For the third consecutive year, a combination of floods and drought has ruined harvests and destroyed homes. In parts of the country, children are already having to live on a diet of tree bark and roots. Without urgent help, many will not survive the bitter cold of the North Korean winter. You can do something to prevent huge numbers of children suffering.

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Testosterone Tess and the **Baldy Sisters**

Women who work in a man's world risk developing a hormonal imbalance that leads to baldness and deeper voices, suggests new research. It's hair-raising stuff. Ann Treneman gets to the root of the problem.

There is a new woman in the workplace whom you may have met over the past few weeks. She's been front-page news and could go under the name of Testosterone Tess. She is young, successful and so stressed that her hormones have gone a little wonky. In fact, things are so bad that she has developed something called "testosterone overload". The result is that she has started to look a bit like Demi Moore in GI Jane. But Demi shaved off her hair while our new heroine is just plain losing hers.

The Sunday Times knows that there are "thousands" of Tesses out there who suffer from the syndrome "caused by taking on traditionally male roles in the workplace". The Daily Mail also knows the problem well. "Medical experts say that in adopting more aggressive and competitive working styles women are developing increased sensitivity to testosterone." And this, it says, could lead to bald patches on the head, growing thick hair on their face, neck and bodies, something called "typically male" acne and deeper voices.

There's only one problem. The medical experts who believe this are rather difficult to find. Nor does there appear to be any known syndrome called "testosterone overload". The study quoted in all the stories - conducted by the School of Pharmacy at the University of quite different in some respects. There is a real possibility that Testosterone Tess simply does not exist.

Author Rosalind Miles is permarkets, banks. We went

immediate response to the whole idea was "robbish". There is a long and undistinguished history of pseudo-scientific myths that seek to persuade women that they must pay a high price if they insist on working in a man's world. "It's a scare tactic. Remember when they said that Indira Gandhi and Mrs Thatcher had more male hormones?" asks Ms Miles. "It's another 'get back in your box scare." This is where I would dis-

agree. I know from personal exwomen do lose their hair and that an increasing number have sought help from the curious breed of expert called trichologists. Some see them as glorified hairdressers, others see them as knowing more about hair loss than any doctor. The trichologist has a lot more time to listen than a GP - but of course he is being paid £65 for doing so. In my case he proposed a course of treatment aimed at stimulating the hair follicles. Nothing was said about testosterone but a lot was said about nutrition. It turns out that our mothers were right when they told us that our hair would fall out if we didn't eat properly. But it is a long way from needing an iron supplement to inventing a new breed of women who are not in controi of their testosterone levels.

The catalyst for the Testosterone Tess story was this survey at the School of Pharmacy. I decided to contact its authors, who were listed as consultant trichologist Dr Hugh Rushton and Dr Michael Norris. Dr Rushton was lecturing on hair loss in Argentina but Dr Norris was available.

The first thing to note is that though both have doctorates neither is a medical doctor. Second, it is not possible to read the report because it is still being written. But Mr Norris was hap-Portsmouth - turns out to be py to tell me the details of how it was conducted and the results. It made for interesting listening.

"We surveyed 800 women. We found them in shops, su-Professor Lisa Jardine whose It was anonymous. They filled in the shower would probably



They told us to stay in the kitchen but we just wouldn't listen...

Photograph: Hulton Getty

no way of knowing if the woman surveyed were high-flyers or even worked outside the home. There is no way of knowing what, if any, stress they were under. There is no way of knowing if they had, in fact, been forced to take on traditional male roles in the workplace.

The survey asked two main questions. One was whether the parting in their hair had widened in the past five years. The other was whether they lost more hair when taking a shower than five years ago. Mr Norris says that those with wider partings would tend to suffer from a hormone problem that he characterised as an increased sensitivity to testosterone. not surprised at this. Nor was anywhere they would let us in! Those who had lost more hair

out a form," he said. There was be suffering from some sort of nutritional deficiency.

> Thirty per cent of women said yes to the shower question. "We were absolutely flabbergasted by the results," he said although he was quick to add that it is hard to tell if this even indicates an increase because there are no previous similar surveys. But, I said, that would mean that women losing their hair were suffering from improper diet, not uncontrollable rushes of testosterone. "Yes, I would say that the major factor in hair loss is nutritional. I would put money on it," he said, adding that the survey did show that 10 per cent of respondents said they had wider partings. "Most of this was in older, postmenopausal women," he said.

So far, so confusing. The sur-Something else is worrying vey did not target women that

were young, career-oriented or identifiably competitive and aggressive. The results show that poor diet is the main cause of hair loss in women and that most women who suffer hormonal hair loss are far too old

to be Testosterone Tess.

So how did Tess come to be born then? Mr Norris says he was somewhat surprised too. "But it is a good story," he said. "And it's not necessarily a false one. But we have no data to back it up. This exists as a theory for now. The stress link can be connected to diet too. Women who work are not likely to eat properly. One thing that worries me is that we are not eating enough red meat because of BSE. That worries me."

the trichologist Glenn Lyons, He

has said that "women's changing role in society is making them more male-like." I asked him to explain further: "Tve got a theory that this hormonal hair loss is to do with the role that women are getting involved in. There are having to be more aggressive. They are climbing the professional ladder and it is hard to be recognised,"

Mr Lyons agrees that the "argument is very arguable" but insists he has seen a startling increase in the number of young women visiting him with hormonal hair loss. This type of hair loss, he explains, has a genetic link and he says that only 15 to 20 per cent can be helped. Nutritional hair loss, in contrast, can be completely corrected.

I ask Mr Lyons if he believes he might have old-fashioned

ideas about women and their role. "No. I've said this for a long time. I'm happily married and my views are based on personal as well as professional observations. I actually listen to what the patients are telling me. I'm aware of how difficult it can be for a conscientious and loving woman. They've got a lot of things to do. I think they are a tremendous sex. Look it's only my theory - doctors might say what a load of nonsense - but I listen to women talk about stress and very often they cry too."

Doctors do, in fact, believe that much of this is rubbish. They say that there is a small group of women who are oversensitive to testosterone but there is no known link between this condition and working in a man's world. "I don't see why

you should acquire this sensitivity because of this stress," says Dr Wayne Perry, a consultant endocrinologist at the Endocrine Centre in Wimpole Street. "It doesn't sound very likely. I'm not saying it's not possible but I think it is highly controversial. I don't know of any medical evidence myself."

The world, however, is more interested in fiction than fact. Mr Norris says he has been inundated with calls from around the world in the past week. "Hair is always good for a story but I've never seen anything like this. They've really latched on to this. People do seem really concerned about women working. Why, I don't know." It's the kind of thing you really want to ask Testosterone Tess - if only you could find her.

community" is ever heir to.

Pride is a paradigm. There is-

Do we get what we pay for - or just what we deserve?



JOHN

are great at spending money, but not at raising it, saving it, using it, or making it grow. Funny, frivolous creatures that we are, we are expected to be, as a feature in The Independent put it only this Tuesday, "creative, exuberant and glamorous". We are not to bother our silly heads about the harsh, hierarchical world of commerce, which, as any woman who has gashed her scalp on the glass ceiling will tell you, remains, a last bastion of "unreconstructed masculinity". A place where "real men" can force you to play by their rules, so that even a

FREE THIS WEEK WITH THE

WHICH SCHOOL?

Let's hear it in stereotype: fags multi-billionaire like the late Malcolm Forbes has to spend his life in hiding. The poor little rich boy feared that his colleagues would discover his double-life and believe his interests lay more in makeover than takeover, in backrooms rather than boardrooms.

Forbes knew if he came out of the filing cabinet his stock would plummet, the bull market would question just why he wanted the keys to the executive washroom. For though seldom explicitly stated, the idea has long been abroad that gay men lack what butch types in red braces thrill to call the

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"killer instinct". That we define ourselves not in the work, work, work ethic but in towing the party, party, party line. That the wealth of our emotional lives is more important to us than piffling profit margins. That the only power we understand is purchasing power and we will never mobilise those potentially political pink pounds for anything else. That we are the playthings, not the playboys, of capitalism, and, bless us, so much more at home in the traditional comfort zone of the arts; that, actually, the only busi-

ness we're equipped for is

showbusiness. Cameron Mac-

Intosh might be rich honey, but his money flows from musicals. Colin Bell might be a big noise, but it's from producing CDs bands. And they probably have fabulous accountants, darling. Pabulous straight accountants. The sort who possibly toil for "gay-friendly" Virgin Direct and can recite a meaningful rap about investment, guppies and DINKs (Dual Income, No Kids) but nevertheless charge way over the odds for life assurance once sexual preference is declared. Are you informed consumer or greedily consumed? Who cares? Not you, obviously. You're gay and

not cold enough to appreciate cash on demand.

Of course, last week's voluntary liquidation of the Pride Trust, the second such occurrence in six years, makes such notions easier to buy and sell. Never mind the evidence to the contrary - Lesbian and Gay Switchboard, Stonewall, the Aids organisations that successfully operate on shoestring and/or slashed budgets - what will be remembered here is how yet another merry band of gay men and lesbians let Gay Pride run up debts to the tune of some £180,000 (estimates vary) despite supposedly attracting

more than a quarter of a million people to "the largest free musical festival in the world".

The old, old story, it is ever

true: queens squabble amongst themselves, dykes try to impose direction, ideological war is waged and what should be a sound proposition is suddenly a psychological playpen with no one keeping a gimlet eye on the "record sponsorship". Or the insurance policies. Or setting cash aside for VAT, breakages and losses including, in this case, three generators, stolen furniture and £7,000 worth of wheelchairs that walked. Result: annual time-is-mon-

y consuming rows around "political correctness", annual failure, the usual wild rumours of fairy-soft hands in the till and Ivan Massow, the subculture's single financial guru (well, who needs more than one?) dragged away from his ledgers to dismiss the unfortunately resurrected cliche of gay-run operations simply not being able to count. uniess it's in inches.

And Massow would be correct to flip the cliche, the collapse of the Pride Trust is not because of genetic disposition. He could furthermore point out that most minority organisations staffed by volunteers routinely trip into similar traps; such failures are not exclusive to "the community", though they oft appear more fiercely concentrated.

What Massow probably wouldn't do - he wouldn't be asked - is to place Pride's fall in the general context of shoddy gay-run businesses "the n't a gay man or lesbian of average intelligence who doesn't complain about the third-rate but invariably expensive services provided by the bulk of gay businesses, be they taxis, holiday firms, decorators, clubs, fetish shops, restaurants, a Mardi Gras or the gay press (the latter currently pulling a pot-and-kettle number that has to be seen to be disbelieved). Yet if these (very) limited companies fail then it's probable that "the community" will be blamed for not supporting such noble endeavours. Some members of the Pride Trust are already privately making such claims and certainly the community" was denounced when the London Lesbian and Gay Centre predictably went under just ignore allegations of missing dosh and financial mismanagement - and Phase magazine turned out to be just that after three appalling issues. It wasn't their fault. It was yours. You were - are - meant to take any crap, accept any old excuse;

because it was gay. Really: don't you realise that as a gay man with a legendary highly disposable income that it's your duty to be everyone's rip-off, including

other gay men's? The notion that homosexuals can't execute the business of business is patently false. It's just delivery, quality control, follow up, value that there's a problem with. But then, if part of you thinks that, you don't deserve any better....

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17/OBITUARIES

black comedy We Must Kill

Toni was presented at the West-

minster Theatre. This play was

later adapted to be made into

a film and is still popular in

repertory. It heralded the start

of a prolific period - several

novels were published, includ-

ing Passionate City (1958), The

Yellow Flag (1959) and The

High Bright Sun (1962) which

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Catharine DeFrance Carver, publishers' editor: born Cambridge, Ohio 19 September 1921; died London ll November 1997,

Catharine Carver was the greatest publishers' editor of her time, and surely the best loved. her passionate devotion to her tasks richly reciprocated in the affection of the many writers and scholars whose work she corrected, enhanced, and even transformed. The American critic Leslie Fiedler calls her the best editor he has ever known and perhaps the best that ever lived. The novelist Flannery O'Connor made her contracts with Harcourt, Brace conditional upon Carver's availability as editor, and during the mid-century decades many other American writers were deeply indebted to her criticism and advice, among them Saul Bellow, John Berryman, e.e. cummings, Bernard Malamud, Elizabeth Bishop, Lionel Trilling, Katharine Anne Porter, Hannah Arendt, and Peter Matthiessen. After she left her native America for Europe in the mid-1960s she played a similarly constructive role in the careers of numerous British writers and editors.

"Katy" Carver's fine eye for detail was supplemented by an extraordinary gift for the conceptualisation of sequence and structure, and she loved the creative excitement of editing fiction and the challenge of what she called "professional risk publishing". In the United States her work was always with commercial publishers: Reynal & Hitchcock; Harcourt, Brace; Lippincott; and Viking. But in Britain her longest stint was with the Oxford University Press.

Enthusiastic letters sent from America in advance of her arrival opened up a choice of editorial positions, and she initially opted for Chatto & Windus rather than OUP on the grounds that Chatto needed her more; two years later, bowever, she reversed that decision, explaining that though Chatto did indeed need her they seemed not to know it. When OUP moved all its operations to Oxford, Carver refused to go, preferring to find work elsewhere in London, initially at Victor Gollancz, later as a freelance with Yale University Press and a number of other publishers.

In the mid-1980s she spent much of her time in Paris, working with the master-translator Ralph Manheim and assisting with the final operations and eventual closure of the Trianon Press. Though she dealt skilfully with texts of every kind - she was once assigned to the Oxford Companion to Sport - she had a special affinity for biographies. She edited four of the original five volumes of Leon Edel's life of Henry James and was almost solely responsible, years later, for producing the one-volume revision and abridgement, making of it a model of compact coherence and narrative drive. She assisted Richard Ellmann with both his Joyce (1959) and his Wilde (1987), and saw the latter through its difficult and painful final stages. She was the editor also of biographies as various as

Jon Stallworthy's Wilfred Owen (1974), Aileen Ward's Keats (1963), Avril Pyman's two-volume Aleksandr Blok (1979. 1980), Desmond Graham's Keith Douglas (1974), and my own Thomas Hardy (1982), and took a special pleasure in working on the memoirs of Sir Geoffrey Keynes and of Richard Hoggart, an especially loyal friend in her later years. Earlier, however, Dan Davin, the Secretary to the Delegates of the OUP, had strongly objected to her criticisms of his memoirs and demanded a more deferential replacement.

Catharine Carver

As an academic editor Catharine Carver was incomparable. An assignment became a complex commitment to the manuscript itself, which she determinedly made the best of, to the subject, which she rapidly mastered, and to the author or editor, whom she promptly transformed into a friend to be variously assisted, encouraged, praised, and scolded. One's manuscript came promptly back, extensively decorated with her standard marginal signs of approval, disapproval, or interrogation and accompanied by pages of questions to be answered and suggestions to be attended to. Warm in her praise, sympathetic to difficulties, and imaginative to the point of inspiration in of-



Carver: creative excitement

ertheless stern in her demands for reorganisations, rewritings, and fuller expositions of topics or materials she judged to have been skimped. "Having said this much in praise," she would characteristically write. "I have to say too that there is still a lot of work to be done,"

Jon Stallworthy, for whom Carver was the paragon of publishers' editors, recalls that she was dissatisfied with the brevity of his initial treatment of Wilfred Owen's first, pre-war, visit to France, brushed aside his protest that almost nothing was known about it, and insisted that something substantial must be said

about so symbolic an episode. Though so well-known by regulation in literary and publishing circles on both sides of the Atlantic, she was an intensely private person who spoke rarely of her past and tended to keep her friends in separate compartments. Her British friends knew almost nothing of her early life, but her birth certificate reveals that she was born Catherine. DeFrance Carver in Cambridge, Ohio, in 1921 to Don Carver, "paymaster", and his wife Harriett. In 1943 she obtained a BA degree at Muskingum College in nearby New Concord, one of her classmates being John Glenn, later famous as an astronaut and LIS Senator. Just how she made her way to New York and its literary world remains mysterious, but she seems to have had that first job with Reynal & Hitchcock by 1945 and by the early 1950s she was working for Robert Giroux at Harcourt, Brace. She also became Assistant Editor of the Partisan Review, and I happened to meet her in New York in 1957. shortly after a naive submission of mine to Purisan had magically been rendered publishable by her revising hand.

I did not encounter her again until the mid-1970s when OUP assigned her to edit the early volumes of the Hardy Collected Letters, but the acquaintance then deepened rapidly into a friendship that - like her friendships with so many of those she had worked with - remained intact until the last of several strokes left her incapable of recognising any of the stream of visitors to her hospital bed.

Carver made a life-style of self-effacement. She always asked not to be thanked for the work she had done - an injunction that some understandably ignored - and in 1982 she declined the PEN/Roger Klein award for which her American friends had conspired to nominate her. To Leslie Fiedler, who had been particularly active on her behalf, she wrote gratefully but firmly: "I hate the exposure, and fear it, oddly, after my long sojourn underground." One recognises the emotion and its contexts without quite understanding its source. "I never worry," she once wrote, "about making what living I need, which is minimal," and indeed she regularly led what most would consider a meagre existence, living alone in under-furnished flats and eating adequately (one feared) only when being entertained by friends. But she led a rich life of the mind and the spirit - it was the art, theatre, and above all the music available to her in London that primarily determined her refusal to move to Oxford - and although ber transatlantic migration of the 1960s seems primarily to have reflected a profound political revulsion at the Vietnam War II Inay also have been influenced by a romantic

think) never visited. France and Italy always retained their appeal for ber, and in 1983 she gave up the Edith Grove flat in which she had been settled for some years, sold her books (many of them inscribed first editions), gave away her few household goods, and set off for the Continent and what became an unsettled existence of "visits. sub-lets, the condition of displacement". In 1985, while working on the revision of Edel's James, she reported from Amsterdam that during the past year she had briefly house-sat or lived in borrowed accommodation in no less than six countries. The need to earn at least a minimal income brought her back to England again and again, and her lack of a permanent address meant, as she often said, that she could most readily be found at work at seat G.10 in the Round Reading Room of the British Library, her "Great Good Place".

valuation of a Europe she had (I



Shake Keane

Ellsworth McGranahan "Shake" Keane, trumpet and flugelhorn player: born St Vincent, West Indies 30 May 1927; married three times (three sons); died Bergen, Norway II November 1997.

"I like the tie," said Shake Keane. "Thank you," I said. It was the mid-Sixties and we were at the Manchester Sports Guild, an unlikely establishment, where the sport came in the form of subsidised beer and visiting American jazz musicians. Keane was playing trumpet there with Joe Harriou's quintet.

"I collect peoples ties," said Keane, "It's a good way of remembering them. Would you swap yours for mine?" Looking at the drab and shapeless affair round his neck I wasn't enthusiastic about the proposition. But it did imply that one of the best trumpet players in the country wanted to remember me. I unknotted the tie and gave it to him and he gave me his. I reflected that I should be grateful that Keane hadn't collected trousers,

or jackets. Keane came from a family seven, all of whom were taught music by their father. He became a teacher in his native island of St Vincent and it was there that he was given the nickname "Shake", because of his interest in poetry and particularly the writings of Shakespeare. He came to London University in 1952 to study literature and at once slipped into the nucleus of West Indian jazz

musicians who were based here. He joined Joe Harriott's quintel in 1960. Harriott bad reached a level of stable im- Michael Miligate provising in free-form jazz. He composed little themes, beautifully phrased, which served as the point of departure for his musicians to improvise solos. While Harriott himself reverted often to a set of clichés in his playing, Keane was able to construct a mellow and imaginative flow of ideas that created its own form.

He took a year's leave from Harriott in 1962 to complete his studies at the London School of Economics. The writer Alun Morgan, often a judge at interuniversity jazz band competitions, recalls his amazement at hearing wonderful, mature trumpet-playing bursting from a band made up of Keane and some napiess teenagers. As a mature student (he was 35), Keane was entitled to compete.

An assiduous brandy drinker, he was never without a bottle in his pocket. "Had he taken proper care of himself," says the composer / pianist Michael Garrick, "trumpeters like Wynton Marsalis and Kenny Wheeler would have had to watch out. Shake was as good and he played a wider range of music. He had a fine intellect and a fertile mind."

What acclaim Keane received was generally in partnership with Garrick or Harriott, but musicians recognised that he and his countryman Harry Beckett were unmatched, in Europe at least, for their lyrical, imaginative trumpet-playing. Keane joined with enthusiasm the controversial poetry-and-jazz presentations that Garrick espoused, staying with the com-

poser for several years. In the early Sixties he also took on studio work, so that his mellow flugelhorn was heard as

the background to many television commercials. Demand burgeoned and he left Britain for German radio studios. There, between 1965 and 1972, he worked mainly for the orchestra leader Kurt Edelhagen, seeking relief from the enormous pressure of the studios with jazz gigs in the Kenny Clarke-Francy Boland band.

"I'm totally played out," Keane told Garrick when he returned from Germany. He returned to St Vincent, where he joined in local politics and rose swiftly to become Government Minister of the Arts. In 1980 he worked in New York as a cultural attaché for the island. WIDER INE GOVERNMENT CO he went back home to teaching. Later he went back to New

York without a visa and lived and worked undercover for some years. In 1989 the American government extended an amnesty to illegal immigrants and Keane became an official resident. That same year he returned to England to tour with the Joe Harriott Memorial Quintet, in which Garrick played the piano and the alto saxophonist Martin Hathaway took the role of Harriott, who had died in 1973. Also in 1989, Keane and Garrick were filmed playing at the Royal Academy for the BBC television series Music of the World.

Keane returned to New York and earned a dwindling living from his literary activities. Each year, he took part in a poetry festival in Bergen, Norway, as a guest reader and musician. On one of his visits he had all his teeth removed, and this more or less ended his professional career as a brass player.

lan Stuart Black

lan Stuart Black, writer: born London 21 March 1915; married 1942 Anne Brooks (died 1986; two sons, two daughters); died Sidmouth. Devon I3 October 1997

Ian Stuart Black leaves a rich legacy, not only in a wealth of stage plays, novels, and screenplays but also in the benefits that a bost of television and film writers, producers and directors around the world, gained from his writing talent and wise counsel. His most popular creation was the television series Danger Man, which starred Patrick McGoohan and ran on British television from the late Fifties onwards, and which was the first really successful British export to America, where the series was known as Secret

Although born in London. Black was a Scot through and through. He was educated at Daniel Stewart's College in Edinburgh, and read for a degree in Philosophy at Manchester. Sport played an important part in his younger days and he remained fascinated by rughy, cricket and golf all his life. He played rugby for Manchester University and had a successful cricket trial for Lancashire, which he did not pursue because writing and theatre had taken precedence.

Having submitted his first one-act play to the Donald Wolfit Theatre Company, he was invited to join them as an actor. Here he met, and was immediately attracted to, one of the leading actresses. Anne Brooke. They married just as Black was called up for service in the Second World War. which took him to the Middle East working in RAF Intelligence. Anne went home to Edinburgh to give birth to the first of their four children, Isobel, who was to go on to become an actress herself.

Demobilised in 1946, Black joined the Rank Scenario Department at Pinewood Studios, working alongside such as Bill Rose, David Lean, Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger. Black in 1954 became infirst filmed detective series. Fabian of the Yard, for the BBC. In 1953 In the Wake of a Stranger, the first of his nine novels, was published and the West End production of his



Black wry twist of humour

Rank made into a feature film starring Dirk Bogarde. During the same period, Black was also involved in many of the successful television series of the time - Francis Drake, Man of the World and Man in Room 17. This activity ran on through the Sixties with his work as story editor, associate producer and/or writer of such television productions as the plays The Dummy Run, The Woman at the Door, Show Me a Hero and the series The Invisible Man, Danger Man, Ransom for a Pretty Girl, Champion House, Adam Adamani, Revenue Men and Dr Who. He

children's adventure serial Redgauntlet, which starred his daughter Isobel. In 1971, I invited Black to join me, as associate producer/writer, on the first of several film series and films I was to produce throughout the Seventies in Ceylon and Australia. Our collaboration over eight very busy and enjoyable years was a successful one. Such series as Elephant Boy, Castaway.

was also commissioned by STV

in the late Fifties to write

Mary, Queen of Scots and the

Tully (1974) were the result. As he had done during the late Fifties and throughout the Sixties with new writers such as Brian Clemens and Richard Harris, Black continued to encourage and nurture new writing talent during the time we worked together. He was particularly good with young writers, understanding their sensitivities and insecurities.

The Outsiders and films such as

All who have worked with him will know the wry twist of humour which was characteristic of him. There are a number of now established writers in Australia, such as Ted Roberts and Tony Morpeth, who will ny remember me nours o guidance, laced with Black's favourite malt whisky, that formed the basis of their careers. Aged 82, Ian Stuart Black

felt that he had had a full and rich life, his only regret being that he had started writing yet another novel earlier this year. and he had not the strength to complete it. He had travelled extensively and he loved talking with friends, never more so than over a good meal and good wine.

Black's view of life was Darwinian, and he encouraged all to make the most of their talents and not to waste opportunities. Occasionally, he was content to simply stand and stare at what he called "a beautiful world".

-- James Gatward

Lillian Parks, seamstress, died Washington 6 November, aged 100. Seamstress at the White House 1929-60. In her book My

White House (1961), she revealed the behind-the-scenes events of the Hoover, Roosevelt, Truman and Eisenhow-- Steve Voce 30 Years Backstairs at the er administrations.

Amoustoments for Gazette BERTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriagus, Deaths, Memo-rial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writ-In Memorism) should be sent in wat-ing to the Gazette Editor. The inde-pendent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London EM 5DL, telephoned to 007-293 200 (24-hour answering ma-chine 007-293 2012) or faxed to 077-401 and 607-293 2012) or faxed to 65.50 a chine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a Rne (VAT extra). OTHER Garastre an nouncements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompa-ished by a daytime telephone number.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Queen, accompanied by The Dake of Editabargh, opens the Salters' Homeless Cly Feger, London ECK, attends a Farewell Lunch on hoard HMY Britannia in the Fool of London; and gives a Reception at Windsor Castle to mark the completion of the restoration. The Duke of Editabargh, President of King George's Fund for Salfors, attends a dimer in HMY Britannia in the Peol of London. The Frince of Wales attends a reception at Windsor Castle to mark the completion of the restoration; Prince Edward also attends. The Princess Royal, President, British Entiring and Clothing Export Coincil, visit Links of London, London WI, said, as President, Romal Housing Thust, attends a hunch at the Royal Westinary College, London University, London NWI, Princess Margaret, President, NWI, Princess Margaret, President, NWI, Princess Margaret, President, NWI, Princess Margaret, President, President NWI, Princess Margaret, President, Princess Margaret, President Whether College, London University
Lukidon NWI. Princers Margaret, President, Royal Scottish Society for Prevention of Combines Children with the lion of Cruelty to Children, attends the Touch of Threat Bell in aid of the Society

Mithe Beach Ballroom, Aberdetti. Citanging of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Reg-ment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at

Birthdays

The Prince of Wales, 49; King Hussein of Jordan, 62: Sir Lawrie Barratt, chairman, Barratt Developments, plc, 70; Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, secretary-general, United Na-tions, 75; Mr Quentin Crewe, writer and restaurateur, 71; Mr James Crowden, Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, 70; Mr Paul Dacre, editor, Daily Mail. 49; Lord Dawson QC, former Solicitor General for Scotland, 49; Mr Michael Dobbs, novelist, 49; Ms Louise Ellman MP, novelist, 49; Ms Louise Fattann Air, 52: Mr Mark Le Panu, general secretary, the Society of Anthons, 51; Air Marshal Sir Richard Nelson, 90; Mr Patrick Nicholls MP, 49; Miss Diana Skilbeck, Headmistress, the Queen's School, Chester, 55; Sir Status Smith former MP, 71: Sir Status Smith former MP, 71: Sir Dudley Smith, former MP, 71; Sir Joseph Smith, former director, Public Health Laboratory Service, 67; Sir Arthur Watts QC, former legal adviser, Foreign and Commonwealth

Munro ("Saki"), writer, killed in action 1916; Tony Richardson, film and theatre director, 1991. On this day: one of the greatest known earth-quakes in England occurred, 1318; press published Britain's first pop mu-sic chart, 1952; Princess Anne

Lectures

Anniversaries

Births: Claude-Oscar Monet, painter, 1840; Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, statesman, 1889; Harold Larwood, cricketer, 1904; Elisabeth Prink, sculptor, 1930, Deaths: Nell Gwynn, actress and mistress of Charles II, 1687; Hector Hugh book tokens first went on sale, 1932; Coventry Cathedral was destroyed by bombing, 1940; the New Musical Ex-

married Captain Mark Phillips, 1973. Today is the Feast Day of St Adec-tus Aribert, St Dubricius or Dyfrig, St Laurence O'Toole, St Nichola Tavelic, St Peter of Narbonne and St

National Gallery: Erika Langmuir, "Pocket Guides (ii): Landscape. Clande, A Seaport", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Eileen Graham, "The Whale-bone Madon na and Pagan Alternatives", 2.30pm Tate Gallery: Christopher Newall, "Edward Burne-Jones", Ipm. Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London ECI: Professor Joan-na MacGregor and Professor Stephen Pratt, "Who Needs New Minute? (and what was wrong with the old?)", 1pm.

English-Speaking Union Dr Henry Rissinger, former US Sec-retary of State, gave the 1997 Eng-lish-Speaking Union Churchili Lecture yesterday at Guildhall, Lon-don EC2. Baroness Brigstocke, Chairman, presided. Sir John Kerr also spoke.

Synagogue services

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 3.58pm. United Sympogues, VISI-343 3989, Federa-tion of Synapogues 0181-202 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synapogues 0171-586 1603. Reform Synapogues of Great Britains 0181-349 4731. Synapogues of Portuguese Lews Compregations, 0171-289 2573. New London Synapogue (Masourith 6171-322 1626.

LAW REPORT: 14 NOVEMBER 1997

Tenants evicted for anti-social behaviour on estate

The criminal and anti-social behaviour of council tenants and their children around the estate where they lived was "conduct which is a nuisance or annoyance to neighbours' within the terms of ground 2 in Schedule 2 of the Housing Act 1985, and accordingly the council was entitled to a possession order against

Northampton Borough Council v Lovatt and anor, Court of Appeal (Lord justice Henry, Lord justice Pill and Lord justice Chadwick) ||

them.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Pill dissenting) dismissed the appellants' appeal against an order for possession of a council house on the Spencer Estate, Northampton.

obtained by the council. The appellants occupied the house with their seven whom were boys. The council

der primarily on the ground that those three boys, who were persons "residing in the dwelling-house" had been guilty of "conduct which is a nuisance or annoyance to neighbours", pursuant to Schedule 2 to and section 84 of the Housing Act 1985. Derek Wood QC and Edmund Farrell

(Toller Hales and Colleva, Northampton) for the appellants; Paul Morgan OC and John W Gibson (Council Solicitor) for the council.

the appellants' tenancy was a secure tenancy within the meaning of Part IV of the Housing Act 1985. Under the Act the council could only bring the tenancy to an end by obtaining a possession order, and that could only be obtained on one or more of the grounds set out in Schedule 2 to the Act. premises, involving a police children, the three eldest of Ground 2 provided that the officer, and Mr Lovatt had

had obtained the possession or- the dwelling house had been a car maintenance and repair the appellants and their sons nuisance or annoyance to neighbours, or had been convicted of using the dwelling house or allowing it be used for immoral or illegal purposes.

The council's notice to the appellants had alleged under ground 2 that they had failed to control or discipline their children, or to control their own conduct, so as to allow neighbours on the Spencer Estate to enjoy quiet possession of their homes, and so as to prevent Lord Justice Henry said that nuisance.

Before the district judge, the appellants had admitted 11 convictions or findings of guilt in 1994 involving people or property on the Spencer Estate which had been committed between the three boys. Mrs Lovart herself had been convicted of a breach of the peace at the

guilty of conduct which was a business. The judge had also which constituted a nuisance or been told of harassment and racial abuse in 1995 and 1996.

The challenge to the judge's decision was that he had been committed away from the demised premises were relevant nuisance and annoyance for the purposes of ground 2 in Schedule 2 to the Act of 1985, it being denied that the victims were "neighbours".

"Neighbours" was a wider word than "adjoining occupiers", and was clearly intended in ground 2 under the Act to cover all persons sufficiently close to the source of the conduct complained of to be adversely affected by it.

The conduct complained of need not emanate from the conduct in the neighbourhood. There must, however, be a tenant or a person residing in used his property for running link between the behaviour of

annoyance and the fact that they lived in the area. That link was the legitimate interest of the council in requiring its tenwrong in law to find that acts ants to respect the neighbourof nuisance and annoyance bood in which they lived and the quiet enjoyment of their homes by those who lived there.

The vandalism, racial abuse, driving offences and burglaries in the present case constituted attacks on the neighbourhood and those who lived there, and would damage the quality of life on the estate. They were legitimate concerns of the council as landford. It would have been perverse for the judge to have concluded that there was no link between the conduct of the appellants and their sons and the fact that they lived on the estate which was the focus demised premises, but could be for their anti-social and criminal conduct. The appeal would

be dismissed. - Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

Alors, Monsieur Straw, you're an example to us all



EDITOR: ANDREW MARK DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES. ADDRESS: I CANADA SQUARE. CANARY WHARE. LONDON EI4 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171-345 2435

Glad tidings: Jack Straw is learning French. The Home Secretary is emerging from his years as a geek to become a fullyrounded human being. The deadly earnest masterer of political briefs has been liberated by the responsibilities of power to become a Renaissance Man. Or not.

Sadly, the real story is a little less heartwarming. Mr Straw has decided he needs to speak French for his job. He wants to talk, face-to-face and uninterpreted, to the French about football hooliganism, immigration policy and the like. Far from taking time off from his ministerial duties, this is an extension of them,

Still, it can only be good that ministers should be able to talk to their continental partners in their own languages. especially as Britain will hold the presidency of the European Union from January - which means there are only seven weeks to add to the paltry number of languages at the Cabinet's command. It is astute diplomacy too, assuaging the

French fear of creeping American cultural hegemony. And a welcome relief from British linguistic arrogance. Only in Britain would it be commented on that the Prime Minister did not need headphones to listen to Jacques Chirac at last week's Canary Wharf news conference. But only in Britain would Mr Blair's ability to engage in fluent French conversation be mocked for the traces of "schoolboy French" in his accent - precisely the com-

languages in this country. However, our politicians should not take up foreign languages in order simply to discharge their ministerial duties. The experience of learning French will be a good thing in itself for Mr Straw. Learning any language is commendable, although it is this newspaper's policy to encourage the learning of languages other than French - Spanish for instance, but even Latin is better than French, which

PEOPLE IN GLASS HOUSES

bination of national self-deprecation and

snobbery which so inhibits the learning of

has been promoted above its station.

All ministers should get themselves a hinterland. Some members of the Cabinet do indeed have unexpected interests in their personal lives, such as Robin Cook's passion for dressage (that's horses, not clothes) and Margaret Beckett's for caravanning. But most of them do lead sadly one-dimensional lives, as vividly shown by the inability of successive arts ministers to name films, books or plays they might have looked at since they left school.

It was not always thus: Mr Cook once wistfully cited a 19th-century predecessor as Foreign Secretary who spent two weeks in Switzerland reading books and writing one speech. Politics was essentially a part-time, flexi-time activity, practised by people who carried on other professions and who were accomplished in other walks of life. This is not to advocate the return of the amateur politician who concentrates on the big picture while civil servants do the real work. But there should be a happy medium.

More rounded people are needed everywhere. You do not have to be an admirer of Marx's early writings to think that Britain's long working hours are alienating. It is a feature of modern capitalism that too many people see their self-worth simply in terms of paid work. This is not simply about the desire of parents to spend more time with their children, it is about the quality of our lives and the wholeness of our persons. Think how our national life would be enhanced if Chris Evans took a part-time degree in philosophy. Or if Bernie Ecclestone had taken up jazz clarinet to dilute his obsession with fast cars. Or if Rupert Murdoch tried to write symphonics instead of trying to rule the world.

The trouble is a lack of credible polymathic role models. If someone excels in more than one field, like Jonathan Miller, they tend to be twice as resented as someone who is pre-eminent in only one. Congratulations, then, to Mr Straw for his part

learning h in bringing back the cult of the gifted amateur. Perhaps it is inevitable that politics should be dominated by driven, singleminded obsessives. But the logic of Mr Blair's style of government is that only the few members of the controlling inner carcle need be full-timers. There are 100 ministers - far too many, and no one can believe that they have real work to do. Alan Clark's Diaries present a convincing pacture of junior ministers as docile participants in a Civil Service make-work scheme. Since then, the New Labour machine has made it even more difficult for ministers even to think aloud. But they could engage actively in the arts, sciences and culture without needing to consult the Cabinet Office about straying on to Chris Smith's departmental brief. Let us have all ministers learning a language, or demonstrating that it is possible to start to play the piano in . your forties or fifties. Why should they not all serve as renaissance role models for a healthier, more balanced society?

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number Fax 0171 293 2056: e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

Smoke of battle

Sir: With all the brouhaha surmunding tobacco sponsorship of Formula One, it is too easy to forget that what is important is whether or not tobacco sponsorship of sport does encourage people to smoke.

With me, it certainly did. Aged 10, 11 or 12, I was very keen to smoke, and only because I was obsessed by Formula One. The only brands I wanted to smoke were JPS and Marlboro. JPS because I was seduced by the glossy black Lotus cars with the gold logos, and Marlboro because in 1976 James Hunt, driving the red and white Marlboro McLaren, was the ultimate Boy's Own hero.

It was inevitable then, that when I first had the opportunity to smoke, which was when I went away to boarding school, I took to it like a duck to water, and only managed to stop ten years later. PIERS TAYLOR Oaksey, Wiltshire

Sir: If, as we are told, donations to political parties are never made in order to influence political decisions but are merely indicative of the donor's support for at least some of the recipient's policies, there seems to be a simple way out of the dilemma. The state should set up an independent body, through which, by law, all political donations would be channelled. The money would be passed to the recipient without any indication of its source. MICHAEL GREEN Birmingham

Sir: Does anybody make a donation, large or small, to a poparty without self-interest? It may be hopes for higher pensions, better quality education or a more favourable business climate.

Would it not be refreshing to hear an admission from government that many decisions in life, especially political ones, are a matter of expediency and compromise? We have a brilliant industry in this country making the best racing cars in the world and there is the strongest case for protecting it - donations or no donations. TOM KAREN

Lechworth, Henfordshire

Sir: A limit on party campaign expenses is enforceable at constituency level, where the local agent is personally liable under law, but meaningless on a na-

tional basis.

Even given the most sophisticated accounting procedures (unlikely in Smith Square or Milibank), it would take months to produce audited accounts. If the victorious party were then found to be over the limit by an Ecclestone or two, would the election be null and void? Or would they pay the money back? Or would the runners-up be declared the winners?

TONY HAKEN Wivenhoe, Essex Sir: On the one hand the Gov-

ernment is reported to favour state funding for political parties. On the other, Gordon Brown announced that a £12m grant is to be sought from Europe to "educate" the British about the single currency. Any chance of William Hague and chums receiving a similar sum argument? **RICHARD DAVIS**

Sir: Now Bernie Ecclestone has had his money back, can Labour voters have their manifesto commitment back, too?

If the tobacco companies and their friends haven't paid for a favour, why should they receive it?

N R BASSETT London N19

London N11

Meanwhile, in the pub

Sir: The latest proposals from Action on Smoking and Health ("Smokers face American-style prohibition", 10 November) raise the question of what the effect of prohibition would be on British pubs and restaurants.

In 1996, the Campaign for Real Ale published details of a survey on this issue, carried out by the East Midlands Hertford

to put forward their side of the Brewing Association. This found that 53 per cent favoured the introduction of no-smoking areas, with the remainder against. Only 9 per cent supported a total ban - not so much a silent majority as a

I'YE MADE

strident minority. In Toronto, a US-style ban was partially relaxed because of a 30 per cent loss of business.

It is right to question the motivation of people who cannot or will not tolerate tobacco smoke and yet seek work in a pub. This is about as convincing a someone with acrophobia asking for a job as a steeplejack. DAVID J ANDERSON Wakefield,

West Yorkshire

JOHN MITCHELL

Epidemic Sir: Is it me, or am I seeing the word "ubiquitous" everywhere these days?

Power to the GPs

Sir: While the broad thrust of the proposed NHS reforms revealed in The Independent on 12 November is to be welcomed, they raise a number of concerns.

Reducing bureaucracy and abolishing the competitive ethos that forces hospitals to try in effect to put each other out of business can only be good. Transferring the power to set clinical priorities to those who most fully understand the problems is also good, but to give almost complete budgetary control to one section of the NHS - general practitioners -

may produce new problems. While GPs have perhaps the best overview of the local population's needs, nursing and allied health care staff and hospital doctors will have an equally valid perspective. To exclude all these others from spending decisions would risk recreating many of the antagonisms that

existed in the days when power to influence spending was seen to rest disproportionately

with hospital consultants. Moreover, GPs are the only individuals in the NHS who, in theory, can gain financial profit from the allocation of NHS funds to facilities in which they have a financial interest. If they are to have significant budgetary control of the NHS, consideration should be given to making them salaried employees, in line with everyone else. Dr ANDREW A JEFFREY Roade, Northamptonshire

Sir: I applaud the Government's intention to move away from the NHS internal market and give budgets for hospital, primary and community care to GPs. However, in your leader of 12 November you are right to question whether GPs have the interest or managerial capacity to run the commissioning process.

There are already recruit-

tients. It seems folly to divert GP time into commissioning unless you increase the number of GPs. I am a front-line GP and I train new GPs. I suggest the Government starts by looking closely at the number of recruits to general practice and the management training they receive. ANTIA CAMPBELL Sheffield

ment problems in general prac-

tice and there is doubt whether

we will soon have enough GPs

left on the front line treating pa-

PRIESTLEY

Biblical beards

Sir: The Rev Peter Hatton suggests that Jesus may not have had a beard (letter, 13 November). Honesty compels me to remind him of the prophetic verse concerning Jesus in Isaiah 50:6: "I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard". **NEIL JACOBSON** Wembley, Middlesex

lury reform

Sir: Having just completed jury service, I agree with Valerie and Martin Hewitt (letter, 11 November) that the present system is unsatisfactory, but I would not agree that all jurors should be lay magistrates. I would prefer a combination of professionals and members of the public. This would have been

A suggestion made by a member of our jury was that there should be a period of jurors' question time before retirement, when the jury could ask questions of judge and counsel.

One jury member felt she was too young to make the necessary decisions; perhaps there should be a lower age limit of 30. SANDRA BOUGHTON Sidcup, Kent

Irish in Great War

Sir: Geraldine Burke (letter, 11 November) reports finding the monument at Ypres to the Irish who died in 1914-18. I remember many gravestones in Galway marked with the honours "Connaught Rangers and Old IRA". The paradox rests in the mass of "southern" Irishmen who fought in the Great War for, as their parliamentary leadership told them, "the rights of small nations" like Belgium and by implication Ireland.

Put this with the facts that there were more "southern" than "northern" battalions in the battle of the Somme, that Unionist shibboleth, and that in the Second World war there were more recruits from the Irish Free State than from Northern Ireland, and you may recognise

why I do not wear a poppy. Great numbers of Irish fought, in passing, for this country in 1914-18 but essentially for a freedom which was then denied them when they returned. M A MARTIN London SW19

Croft options

Sir: Paul McCann ("The tabloid casting couch of Lara Croft", 12 November) suggests that if were have been "in a persistent veg; etative state for a year" we shall not know who Lara Croft is. The opposite is the case. Only those who have been in such a_ state for a year will know. GEOFFREY BRACE

lough love

Excuse me. Would you mind? For charity. A little something. Oh, it's like that, is it?



May I take just a little of

I want to talk to you today about Princess Diana.

It was said that, when she was alive, you could double the circulation of a magazine just by putting her on the cover. In a sense, that is what I have

done by putting her name at the top of this article. You saw her name and started reading.

So it still works. But that is not what I want

to talk to you about today. I want to talk to you about the very real and valuable work

that she did for many charities. Charities which are still benefiting enormously from her work. Unlike the charities which she didn't support.

Those many, many charities which she didn't support and which have seen their funds go down both in her lifetime and

since she died. Yes, for every charity which gained from her attention, there are three or four which suffered because of her lack of attention. You could say, I sup-

pose, that Princess Diana did more harm than good to charities in this country. But that is not what I want

to talk to you about today. What I want to talk to you about is what happens to a char-

ity when it finds that its income is going down and that its very valuable work is being curtailed because of lack of funds. Not necessarily because of Diana, Princess of Wales.

What does it do then? Either it goes out of business or it hires a very clever person

called a fund-raiser. I wonder if you have ever come across a fund-raiser. He or she is a person who

comes in and, for a price, organises events and public relations so that the public becomes aware of the charity and hands over lots of lolly, or organises high-profile, glittering society affairs which rake in lots of moolah from the upper crust.

For instance, whoever got the BBC to back Children In Need was a pretty good fund-

Whoever invented flag days was a pretty damned good fund-raiser, even if the idea has become a little devalued.

Whoever persuaded the British that it was a fun idea to put squashed plastic tomatoes on the front of their car bon-

raiser in his own way. Or her way, of course. But there comes a time when fund-raisers start to run

nets was a genius of a fund-

out of ideas. When they start to get tired. When the old magic that has served them so well begins to desert them, and they take on

one charity too many. Sometimes you read in the paper that a gigantic celebrity auction or a vintage aeroplane fly-past has failed to attract people, and made a huge loss.

That is because some legendary fund-raiser has just lost the knack.

Oh, they can go on for a

They can raise funds for smaller charities, and they can assist other fund-raisers who still have the gift.

But sooner or later the day comes when even the bravest fund-raiser has to admit that the jig is up, and that the time has come to throw in the towel.

What does a charity fundraiser on the scrap-heap do? What hope is there for a down-and-out charity organises.

What hope can you offer to someone whose only talent is for phoning up and saying. "Darling you must get two tickets for the most wonderful ball I'm organising!" or, "Sir Edward, I know you won't refuse when I ask you to donate an unwanted conductor's baton to people who deserve it more than you do, and who - let's face it - can probably conduct better than you can!"

There is no hope for such people. Except that offered by the Former Fund-Raisers Fellow-

This wonderful organisation is the only one that is specifically

designed to help ex-charity geniuses down on their luck. Our motto is: "Once upon a time they blackmailed you into buying tickets for charity affairs you had no intention of

going to and where you were bored silly and spent too much on the raffle. Now they would like to apologise and, if it's not too late, ask you for some

more money, but for themselves this time."

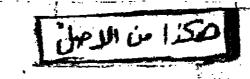
It's not a great motto. In fact, it's a lousy slogan. But when you're a bunch of clapped out fund-raisers, it's the

best you can come up with. The Former Fund-Raisers Fellowship desperately needs funds to continue its work at its retirement home in the New Forest, where we can house fund-raisers whose nerve has gone and who cannot hear the word Gala or Celebrity without

sopping. So, please won't you give

generously? Well, just a little?

Nothing? We really have lost the knack, haven't we?



19/COMMENT

Learning humility from the Woodward trial



DAVID USBOURNE ON DAYS IN A **BOSTON COURT**

For some weeks now I have been immersed, as a front-line reporter, in the Louise Woodward trial. What a lot I - we - have learned from it. About ourselves. About its cast of characters. About the American make that Massachusetts - justice system. And yet, so much remains mysterious. Such as what really happened to Matthew

One of the main lessons I have learnt, personally, is how dangerous predictions can be. How many times I made them and was proven spectacularly wrong. But I was not

My greatest sin was believing that I knew what the verdict would be. Like all my reporting colleagues, I had pre-cooked a "guilty" story just in case the verdict came on final deadline, but I almost did not bother. What possessed me to assume that the jury was sharing my conclusion: that Barry Scheck and his team had done well enough to show reasonable doubt,





arrogance throughout

and that Louise would surely be freed?

Even the officers of the court were convinced that Woodward would be home for Hallowe'en. It is not widely known, for example, that on the second day of the jury's deliberations, bailiffs of the court went so far as to walk the four defence lawyers through the best exit route from the courthouse, by which Louise could most efficiently and discreetly be escorted to freedom once the "not guilty" verdict came down.

Judge Hiller Zobel was confident that sure. One source reported that when he left the courtroom briefly between hearing the word "guilty", and returning to dismiss the court, Zobel was in his chambers being physically sick. I have no idea if that is true, although I did ask him later. He did not answer, but I can believe it. Several of the court officers cried that night, I know.

Worst of all, Woodward also thought she knew what the jury would do. Already she was getting special treatment by the officers who believed in her innocence. Exceptionally, for example, she was being allowed to watch television - an episode of Seinfeld in the holding cell upstairs, when the phone rang and someone announced: "The eagle has landed." A verdict was in. The verdict that turned out to be guilty.

For all of this, I blame Scheck. His arrogance, in hindsight, was breathtaking. Only when the jurors came in, their expressions betraying such gravity, did it even occur to Scheck and his colleagues that their performance - their parading of all those highly remunerated, ever-so-eminent medical experts with their explanations about old injuries and re-bleeds - might not have

washed after all. To say they were surprised is not even close; Scheck looked as though a bomb had exploded in his insides.

Even in the following few days, I had to fight to restore my objectivity. A terrible temptation had to be resisted: to pander in my reporting to the sentiment of so many back in Britain that a wrong had been done. There were some amongst my colleagues here who, in the bars after work, had been voicing doubts about Woodward even before the verdict, especially about her testimony on the stand. Too accomplished, too rehearsed, just not kosher, they said. I began to listen more carefully.

Judge Zobel, I think, still believes in Woodward's innocence. To be sure, he offers a scenario for guilt, or a degree of guilt, in the 16-page document he issued this Monday before slashing her "murder two" conviction to one of manslaughter. But if he really believed it, he would not have taken that next, extraordinary, step: sentencing her to just the 279 days already served, and letting her go free.

My worst dilemma, however, is this: how legitimate, or how low is it, to question in print the veracity of the parents of the dead haby? The glare of doubt has been shone on his mother, Deborah Eappen, especially. Why? This is a woman who has lost a child, and we, the press, decided that it would be good sport to throw doubt on her. "God forbid," one friend said to me, "that I ever lose a child and find myself

> suddenly subjected to such Only a day earlier, I had reported that Mrs Eappen had made a videotape apparently coaxing Matthew's elder brother, Brendan, to reveal some dread secret about Woodward, maybe about how once she had hurt him. It seems now that Mrs Eap-

pen did not chose to make

the video, but was asked to do so by the police.

Will we ever be certain of what happened? Let us, for a moment anyway, entertain the Eappen doubters.

The defence suspicion, never aired in court on the grounds that the risk of angering the jury was simply too great, was this: that Brendan, the elder brother, who is large for his age, caused the initial injury by leaping on to Matty from some height and banging

Does that explain the old wrist injury, too, in only at autonsy? And the parents know this all along, and cover up for their surviving son?

What I think, changes with each day. I am clear, after sitting in that court for almost four weeks, that the case presented by the prosecution was lousy. Scheck, for all his hubris, raised reasonable doubt. Had I been a juror, I would never have voted guilty. Woodward believes it when she says she is mnocent. But this may be some kind of

Do I really think that she did nothing to burt Matthew, as she insists? I am not sure that I do. Would I leave my children in her care now? No, I would not. What do I think of the decision of Judge Zobel to let her go, without even giving her a year or two more? It strikes me as indecent, and insulting to

the Eappens. Just before the trial began, I interviewed the parents of Louise Woodward, Gary and Susan. Now I wonder about this, and it chills me: are they still, as they claimed then, 100 per cent certain that their daughter did

Or do they also now have just a sliver of doubt? If so, how ghastly that must be.



Well caught! One of the ads that caused a largely ridiculous furore about images of violence by women against men

Boys. They never get the joke.



SUZANNE MOORE

WHAT GIRL POWER MEANS

I am as concerned as the next woman about adverts which show women being violent towards men. I don't think there are anything like enough of

The three ads that have been Standards Authority - for Lee Jeans, showing a woman's stiletto-heeled boot resting on the buttock of a naked man, with the slogan "Put the Boot in", the Nissan ad with a man clutching his crotch and the line "Ask Before You Borrow It", and the Dress to Kill campaign for Wallis which shows men in danger of being killed because they are distracted by beautiful women - have attracted almost 100 complaints. The complaints were not upheld, but the ASA has warned advertising agencies that they should think twice about using

such "Girl Power" imagery. Three advertisements hardly constitute a trend in my book, and yet suddenly we are supposed to worry about men being demeaned and exploited in advertising imagery. These ads are said to be tasteless and sexist, and to encourage violence against men.

If men are really such sen-

sitive and humourless souls then it's no wonder women have murderous feelings towards them. Actually, I don't think most men are like this. Indeed, from the contents of the little cards pinned up in telephone boxes everywhere, it appears that some men are more than happy to pay for the privilege of being demeaned and exploited by supposedly powerful women.

Most men, I'm sure, take

these ads with a pinch of salt, even though they haven't had the years of training that most women have had in turning a blind eye to offensive images of their gender. Still it is always instructive to find how any perceived shift in the balance of power, however tiny, is seen by certain men as the beginning of the end. On the whole the advertising industry, despite its relentless trendiness, has lagged behind societal change in representing the lives of modern women. We are still Stepford Mums whose main topic of conversation is washing and gravy, or dutiful wives prepared to have sex with our husbands only because they have a new car.

It is fitting that Girl Power should be a concept picked up by the ad industry. For Girl Power is, in essence, a kind of re-branding.

No one wants to use the word "feminism" any more. Its just so old-fashioned, puritanical, and horror of horrors. political. Girl Power on the other hand is all about sex and fun and being up-front, Girl Power is young and streetwise and highly individualised. Girl power is not about collective action, organising creches or any of that dull business. It is about self-confidence and self-esteem, and if you are a spotty 12year-old you may well need all the help you can get in this department. The Spice Girl version of

Girl Power to which we are now in thrall is a sugared-up version of the original Girl Power which was far more angry, disturbing and underground. Girl power meant young women talking about self-harming and menstruation rather than it being just another way of pulling boys. It meant pictures of girls with too much make-up who had scrawled "whore" on their stomachs, who were refusing the traditional discourses of femininity, who were slightly scary and out of control. The Spices, we know, are very much in control and not really scary at all. They're so in control, in fact, that after giving Nelson Mandela the best day of his life (he said it, not me) they decided to sack their manager and go it alone. It's all slavery, you see.

I fear for their future mainly on the grounds that I don't know a single girl child who thinks they are cool any longer, and as this their core market 1 wonder what this bunch of millionaires will do with themselves. They have saturated the market to such an extent that there hardly appears to be a product that they haven't endorsed. Their talent is not singing and dancing but marketing and promotion.

Eventually, though, even the little girls understand that at the centre of all this marketing, the product itself, the music, is not that interesting. In a dizzying spiral of consumerist confusion the Spice Girls have been so busy lending credence to other products that they have almost forgotten to produce one of their own.

Girl Power, as a form of branding, as a way of pushing yet more product, is ultimately unthreatening, as it is always about sexuality and little else. The central notion - that girls

or women are more "up for it" than they were before - will hardly bring about the collapse of the West.

Indeed the men's magazines are falling over themselves at the moment to produce surveys that suggest that young women are increasingly sexually predatory and "experimental". In your dreams, you might even believe what you read in sex surveys. Genuine Girl Power may, of

course, be about not caring what men think, about something more than a titillating fantasy. It is still difficult to correlate the imagery of Girl Power that is prevalent in all teen magazines - for instance "20 Ways to Insult a Boy" - with what is really going on for most girls.

Certainly there is a confidence amongst young women that is very hopeful, a realisation of the importance of female friendships and an expectation of equality both at school and in the future. Yet the same old sexual double standards exist and are reported to exist by miserable teenage girls who are terrified of the names that boys might call them. What would really help

these girls is to see images of powerful women that are not reducible to sexuality. Girl power as a kind of sexual bravado is essentially limiting. And expected.

that is all that is going on in these supposedly offensive ads. The people who complained about them are doubtless the same people who talk about humourless feminists, who resent every penny given to research into breast cancer on the grounds that men get testicular cancer, who think that women because of positive discrimination get all the best jobs, and who feel that men should not have to provide for any children

that they father. The fragility of contemporary masculinity is wondrous to behold. Is it such a delicate thing, that it must be protected at all times by bodies such as the Advertising Standards Authority? Women, I suppose, are simply hardened by being bombarded by imagery about what women should be, so they take it all rather lightly - unless of course they acquire an eatselves. Men who will fare best in a changing world are surely the ones that do not take theinselves so seriously, and who realise that Girl Power as it is now played out is more of a cheeky giggle than the demented cackle of a power-crazed dominatrix. Women, you may rest assured, are still a long way from having the last laugh. In the meantime, the odd snigger at men's expense is only to be

Tough love: How to flirt with tycoons and stay a virgin



DONALD MACINTYRE ON LABOUR AND CASH

What are the long-term lessons from the Ecclestone affair? The one certainly positive outcome will be a revolution in party funding. Sir Patrick Neill. chairman of the committee on Standards in public life, and Lord Nolan's successor, is obviously keen to carry out the fundamental review that will be needed before next summer.

There is a historic irony re; just as Lord Nolan's com-Plice was set up after the cashfor-questions affair in

made it virtually impossible for the government of the day to ignore its findings, so Sir Patrick's enquiry into political funding, though always intended by the new government, begins its enquiry in circumstances that also make it difficult for the government of the day to ignore what he proposes. Sir Patrick is in a powerful position, all the more so since there is now no danger that whatever he recommends will be seen as an attack on one party rather than another. There isn't an instant, easy

answer. A cap on spending, much discussed in the last 48 hours, is undoubtedly desirable. Because broadcasters in the UK have a statutory duty to be impartial, and because there is no paid-for TV advertising, there is no reason, as Paddy Ashdown's Liberal Democrats have shown, why national campaigns shouldn't be fought with a great deal less money than they are at present by the two biggest parties. But a cap still makes it possible for big businesses, or trade unions, or animal rights lobbies, to spend

emergency conditions which cause which, because only one seeking elements of the private main party believes in it, is identifiably helpful to that party in an election campaign. Public funding also has its

powerful opponents, inside and outside the Government. One ground for opposition is the strong belief that taxpayers would object to paying for the upkeep of party politics. Another is that it could fossilise political parties, accentuating the historic relative full in individual membership, and making them even more sclerotic organisations than they are already. And a third, which worries some in the Labour Party, is that it will spell the end of the final institutional link between party and the trade

All these objections, however, are worth a little more examination than they have had so far. Certainly it seems a bit risky to expect the public to cough up for their politicians, who enjoy, with journalists, lower popular esteem than any occupational group including estate agents. On the other hand the public also don't much like money being thrown man rights to the for a at politicians by the more self-mum it will surely contemplate Minister - and perhaps Helmut

sector, as the electors of Tatton demonstrated when they chose Martin Bell in preference to Neil Hamilton, And as Vernon Bogdanor, professor of government, argued yesterday, the public do already pay for a lot of their politics through their taxes, whether through state subsidies for the Opposition, for public meeting-rooms and free delivery of election addresses, or though their BBC licence fees in providing party election broadcasts. There is even, incredibly, tax relief on donations to political parties. Secondly, if state funding were tied to party membership on a pound-forpound basis - as some Tory politicians such as Tristan Garel lones have suggested in the past - it could have a galvanising effect on membership recruitment. Finally, while some may strongly oppose ending union funding, there are others, in trade unions, as well as in the party, who believe that the final break is in the interests of both. But even if the Neill committee doesn't come out in favour of a wholesale shift to state funding, the very miniis a strict cap on total expenditure - as well, probably, as on individual donations - with total disclosure. That means amounts as well as names held on a publicly inspectable register, continuously updated.

But the second lesson has to do with the Government's dealings with rich and powerful businessmen. Ever since the existence of the Ecclestone donation came to light the Tories have been severely inhibited in their attacks, because of the awe-inspiring level of their own indebtedness to Mr Ecclestone in the past. Perhaps that's why not a single Tory on Wednesday even asked the Prime Minister a pointed question about whether the donation was referred to Sir Patrick Neill only after the first questions from iournalists, late in the day last Friday. As an opposition, therefore, it has been more tainted than the Government. But it's questionable, first whether Mr Ecclestone was a suitable donor for Labour in the first place, and secondly whether his advice on the dire consequences of applying the sponsorship ban was as disinterested as the Prime

Kohl and Romano Prodi, who also both saw Mr Ecclestone appear to have assumed it was. Harnessing business support was an essential and entirely honourable part of what Blair brought to New Labour. But when it comes to party donations, or simply bending the Prime Ministerial ear in the warmth of the Downing Street study, there is a distinction between the broad and collective view of a group of company chairmen about where the national interest lies, say, on Europe, and the single-minded pursuit of commercial success by one interest or another.

Blair will have to show that he can face down business opinion on occasion, as well as bow to it. He has already shown that he is capable of leading, as well as following, business opinion. The painstaking education of employers in the logic and justice of the national minimum wage was a stunning success. But there will be other fights. Blair has triumphed over the vested interests in his own party. But there are vested interests in business as well, whether or not they come with

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All you need to know about everything that matters

Dive in Nikkei leaves Japanese banks in crisis

The crisis threatening Japan's banking system deepened yesterday, with experts predicting the country's government might have to mount a rescue. And as one big American bank reported huge trading losses due to the recent financial market turmoil, Alan Greenspan said the US should be ready to help bail out Asia, Diane Coyle, Economics Editor, reports.

The fear that many of Japan's banks are near to collapse as a result of diving share prices has led to a ballooning in the socalled "Japan premium" in recent days. To borrow in the international interbank market, Japanese banks are having to pay up to three-eights of a percentage point more than American banks for money, it was reported in Tokyo yesterday.

The ratings agency IBCA announced that it was downgrading the already low ratings for three banks, Fuji, Industrial Bank of Japan and Sakura. Another three, Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank, Sanwa and Sumitomo, were placed on a negative "rating watch".

David Marshall, IBCA's Asia-Pacific director, said: "The Japanese banks are extraordinarily weak." The risk that they would default was negligible thanks to Ministry of Finance guarantees, he said, but the low individual ratings assigned to the banks reflected their dismal financial condition.

"At some point the government would have to step in with an explicit guarantee of the banking system," Mr Marshall said.

The sharp fall in the Nikkei index, now approaching 15,000 compared with 21,000 in July when the Asian turmoil started, is the source of the banks' solvency problems. Many have invested two or three times their share capital in the stock market, so a 20 per cent fall in the Nikkei translates into a 40 per cent or bigger drop in their own capital. A level of 15,000 for the index is extremely worrying, while 14,000 is crisislevel. "It is a problem for absolutely all of them," said IBCA's Mr Marshall.

The widespread concern about the system's fragility was reflected in the mareused premium being demanded of Japanese banks borrowing funds in currencies other than yen yesterday. Some were being charged 38 basis points above the 5.875 per cent interbank rate paid by big American or European banks. Stephen Lewis, of London Bond Broking, said: "This is a very clear guide to what banks in the market really think about whether there is systemic risk in Japan."

The Japan premium first appeared in 1995 when the scale of the banks' bad property loans emerged. It re-opened last week and has increased sharply this week.

Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve Board chairman, indicated yesterday that America should stand ready to stabilise the Asian financial crisis. Having already helped by not raising US interest rates on Wednesday, despite clear signs of an overheating domestic economy, he said: "It is in the interest of the United States and other nations around the world to encourage appropriate policy adjustments and, where required, provide temporary financial

The Fed chairman's comments came as Chase Manhattan reported a \$160m (£94m) before-tax trading loss in October. It said this was due to "umusually volatile and adverse" conditions, especially in emerging markets. Chase has a big presence in Latin America. Mr Greenspan also warned yesterday that the US economy would be affected by the turmoil in Japan and South-east Asia. He said: "To date the direct impact of these developments on the US economy has been modest, but it can be expected not to be negligible."

Heavy buying by Japanese pension funds helped prop up the Nikkei yesterday. It ended just 7 points lower at 15,427.27, but had plummeted to as low as 15,083.22 earlier. Further declines are expected.

Hong Kong staged a slight recovery, the Hang Seng index rising 113 points to

Shares in London and New York were little changed yesterday. The FTSE 100 fell 9 points to 4711, while the Dow Jones was 26 points up at 7,427.35 by midday.

Revealed - what Credit Suisse really thinks about BZW



Under the City's glare: Credit Suisse's London Docklands building as seen from the offices of 'The Independent' last night: "Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid "very complex", said the director. It will in-

The Independent' was yesterday able to listen in to a highly confidential global video conference held for Credit Suisse First Boston's managing directors in London, New York and how Kong to discuss and celebrate the acquisition of BZW's equities and investment banking business on Wednesday. John Willcock reports.

Merely by quoting "Project ****** to a telephone operator yesterday, The Independent was able to access a private video conference for CSFB's top brass, during which they gloried in the acquisition of BZW's equities and investment banking divisions this week for a paltry £100m.

During the half-hour conference they forecast mass sackings in the London-based bank's back office activities, and further redundancies among some of the investment bankers where they overlapped with CSFB.

A UK executive boasted of the "carrot and stick" methods CSFB was using to get BZW employees to sign up for the Swiss bank. "Every top manager has signed as well as 200 top people," the UK director said.
The "staff retention plan" operated by CSFB offered them 3 years vesting stock in CSFB as the carrott, and the stick was represented by lengthy non-competition

Allan Wheat, chief operating officer of CSFB, chimed in from New York, answering another director's question as to why the bank had not bought the Asian and Australian bits of BZW, as it had originally offered to do. Mr Wheat explained that the Asian operations were for the most part startups which were not profitable, that there were too many locations to cover. Asia was "too big a bite for us". Specifically, Mr Wheat said, BZW's Japan business was "a loser".

"We haven't anyone to send there." Then to rancous laughter from his fellow directors, Mr Wheat added: "I don't know anyone I dislike enough to send there." He concluded: "We chickened out on that."

Back in London, a UK-based director said that for the £100m paid to Barclays, CSFB is getting £150m net assets, while the staff retention plan will cost £50m. "No goodwill [was paid for] in this transaction," the director said. He added: "We will keep [BZW's] space in the Bardays building - we will rent space from then on fairly cheap terms."

The integration of the two banks will be investment banking disappeared into the

volve a charge from earnings of £100m after tax, which will be taken as an extraordinary, charge, "so the P&L dosesn't suffer, and savings flow directly to the bottom line". He added: "The net cost to us [of the acquisition] will be £175m.

We're taking about 800 front office people." he said, while the number of information technology and back office people to be kept on was under negotiation; CSFB wants to take "obviously as few as possible," he added. "We will probably take on a few hundred."

Mr Wheat said that at a recent internal conference in Miami, the bank's top brass had pondered the need to expand beyond its core strengths, fixed income and derivatives, as well as the need to bolster, its activities in Europe and the UK, where we kinda lack critical mass".

BZW will almost perfectly complement some of these weak areas, he said. For instance, BZW's research team will increase the number of UK companies covered by the bank by more than 400, he said.

Mr Wheat then said that the original figure had been put down as nearly 450 companies, but he had not wanted to admit how few companies CSFB already covered in London - to a barrage of laughter from his fellow directors. He then ducked naming a precise figure for how many BZW people would be fired. He said: "To be very honest we've been trying to recruit their investment bankers for years - particularly those recruited over the last year. There will be some redundancies - but the business compliments it [CSFB] very well."

One British questioner asked why two American investment banks, Donaldson Lufkin Jenrette (DLJ) and Bankers' Ting-walked away from table in the final stages of the battle for BZW.

Mr Wheat said: "DLI has about 20 or 40 people in Europe - period." He added that the original deal offered by Martin Taylor, chief executive at Barclays, had been "all or nothing". DLI had concluded that "this thing is just too big a bite." Bankers' Trust dropped out of the bid-

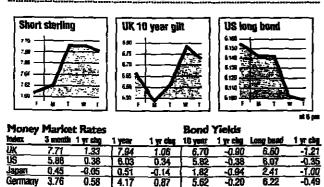
ding because, Mr Wheat said, it was "not viewed as a preferred em toyer by [BZW's] Commerzbank was extremely interest ed, but the employees oidn't want to be end.

played by Commerzbank or ING, "so that was the end of that," he said. "Bankers" Trust is now going after NatWest." And so, the conference drew to a close, and a great British name in

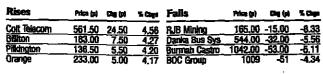
STOCK MARKETS

Dow Jones Indices

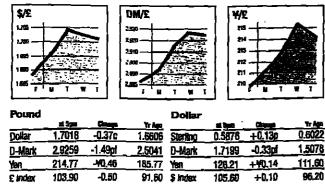
INTEREST RATES



MAIN PRICE CHANGES



CURRENCIES



OTHER INDICATORS

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Prent Off (\$)	19.26	0.26	22.96	GDP	114.00	3.90	109.7	Jan
Gold (S)	307.55	0.30	383.10	RP	159.50	3.7	153.81	Nov
Silver (\$)	5.02	0.08	4,90	Base F	iates _	7,25	6.00	
www.bloomberg.com				source: Bloomberg				

Railtrack to cut 1,000 managers' jobs BAe and Rolls win

Railtrack is to sweed away 1,000 jobs over the next two years, many of them in management positions, after concluding that its present organisational structure is unable to cope with the demands on the rail network. Michael Harrison examines how Sir Bob Horton, chairman, is getting to grips with the bureaucracy inherited from the old BR.

The cutbacks are the equivalent to 10 per cent of Railtrack's 10,600-strong workforce and will see whole layers of management abolished. So far this year 300 jobs have disappeared. many of them managerial posts,

Molins issues fifth profits

warning this year

its High Wycombe factory.

to reveal that accounting ir-

agement have already been stripped out of Railtrack's pronerty division and its engineering and production division as part of the restructuring, which goes by the name of the C-Change programme. Sir Bob said Railtrack could not expect to demand efficiency improvements from its suppliers such as the infrastructure and track renewal companies, it did not tackle its own over-bureaucratic structure.

if Railtrack were to meet its and a 38 per cent increase in in-£10bn investment programme in the rail network and respond to the challenge set down by the

Rail Regulator, John Swift. Gerald Corbett, Railtrack's new chief executive, said: "Future challenges placed on us by the growth in the network, the

and the target is to reduce demands of other stakeholders. After the harsh criticism men manning at a rate of 500 a year. and the scale of our investment ed out in the past by the regu-Two entire layers of man- programme are such that as currently configured, we would be

unable to cope. "We have to increase the responsiveness of our organisation and push decision making downwards and outwards to where the customers are. The organisation is too rigid, too hierarchical. We tend to look inwards and upwards, not outwards." He was speaking as Railtrack

announced a 10 per cent rise in pre-tax profits in the first half of the year to £190m, an 8 per The changes were also vital cent increase in the dividend vestment to £520m. Costs involved in the re-

dundancy programme and tackling the millennium computer timebomb were £18m in the fist six months and Mr Corbett said he expected the Year 2000 date change to cost it £30m- £3.5bn-£4bn before financing demands of our customers, the £40m in total.

lator and the Government over its investment performance, Railtrack said spending would be on target by the turn of the year.

Investment on station improvements would reach £150m by the end of the year while spending on track renewal was now well ahead of the programme agreed with the regulator.

In contrast to his caustic comments at the time of Railtrack's final results announcement last summer. Mr Swift was almost praiseworthy of the company's performance, saying that its interim results showed improvements were under way.

Mr Corbett cast doubt on whether Railtrack would take part in the high-speed Channel Tunnel Rail Link, saying it was cautious about the project. which is expected to cost

£400m launch aid for new jets

The Government is granting Rolls-Royce and British Aerospace £400m in launch aid to build engines and airframes for a new generation of Airbus and Boeing jets. Michael Harrison reports on the most ambitious public-private

partnership yet between the Blair administration

Rolls-Royce last night announced that it was receiving £200m in launch investment from the Department of Trade and Industry to develop three new versions of its Trent engine for a range of Boeing and Airbus jets.

This is the first launch aid the company has received since 1986 and will be repaid through a levy on sales of the aircraft, which Rolls-Royce expects to reach £50bn over the next 20

Separately, British Aerospace is expected to be told shortly that it will receive about £200m to develop wings for a new stretched version of the Airbus A340 long-range jet. The A340-500/600 series will carry 375 passengers - enabling it to compete directly with some versions of the Boeing jumbo

John Battle, the Minister for Science, Energy and Industry, described the investment in Rolls-Royce as a "partnership with industry and an investment in the future".

In effect the Government will become a risk and revenue sharing partner in the three new Trent programmes, taking a 20 per cent stake in return for a share in future profits. Rolls has already contracted 20 per cent of the Trent 700 and

The three new engines are the Trent 500, which will power the stretched Airbus, the Trent 8104, which will power a longrange version of the Boeing 777 and the Trent 600, which will power larger versions of the

Boeing 747 and 767. Sir Ralph Robins, Rolls' chairman, said the three new engines would take it into a whole new area of the aircraft market, enabling it to capture more than 40 per cent of potential sales. The alternative, he said, would have been to invite commercial risk and revenue sharing partners on to the Trent programme but this would have meant jobs and work going abroad.

Rolls received launch aid for the original RB211 engine, the Spey and the V2500 but significantly, the last government decided not to fund the launch of the Trent programme. Sales of the Trent 700 and 800 and now \$7bn (£4bn) and it has captured 38 per cent of the market to power the two widebodied jets, the 777 and the Air. bus A330.

Rolls is repaying about £30m of launch aid to the Govern ment each year while total air repayments, including these made to BAe, are due to total £500m over the next five years as aircraft like the Airbus A320 begin to pay their way.

The stretched A340 is cost! ing BAe and its three Airbus partners about £2bn to develop. BAe is limited to a maximum launch aid of 33 per cent on its share of the costs.

Both BAe and Rolls will also seek launch investment from the Government for the 600-seat double-decker super jumbo, the A3XX, which Airbus hopes to launch before the end of the century. The aircraft would cost at least \$80n to develop, with some estimates putting it as high as \$20bn, and is unlikely to enter service and 800 programme to overseas til 2005 at the earliest.

South West Water warns of possible £7m setback in Italy

regularities at its US corrugated Molins, the packaging and cigarette machines group, yesterpackaging business were larger day announced its fifth profits than expected and in Septemwarning this year and said that ber it was forced to retract a July it was cutting around 500 jobs. statement that the future of its tobacco machinery business in the UK in response to a was "encouraging." Asked falling demand from the key whether shareholders were Chinese market. Shares in the company, which have slumped putting pressure on management, Mr Harrisson said: "No from over 900p at the start of one had been bold enough to the year, fell another 72.5p yes-

terday to 327.5p, a five-year low. ask about my position." Peter Harrisson, chief exec-He said the restructuring, utive, said that previously strong which involves asset writedowns, would cost £16m in the second demand from China, where half on top of £1.5m restruc-Molins supplies rolling maturing charge in the first half and chines to the huge state tobac-£13m provision to cover the acco industry, had showed no sign of resuming and orders precounting irregularities. As a result, he said, profits for the viously in the bag continued to be delayed. As a result the second half of the year would be lower than the first half. company is cutting a quarter of its 2,000 workforce in tobacco Mr Harrisson who has machinery over the next three

threatened to sue KPMG, its months, most in the UK from former auditors, over the irregularities which took place over 10 years said Molins was The news is the latest in a still in talks with KPMG. horrendous year for the company. In July Molins was forced

– Sameena Ahmad

became the latest utility to run into trouble overseas after warning that it may have to take a £7m charge to withdraw from a foint venture in Italy.

The group said it was now reviewing its investment in Siba, a 50:50 venture formed two years ago with the Milan-based contracting group Emit, to bid for local water and sewerage franchises. South West said that because

of public spending cuts in Italy the result of the Italian goverament's attempts to qualify for economic and monetary union - the joint venture company had not progressed as hoped, picking up only two contracts, one of which was embroiled in funding problems.

A decision on whether to withdraw from the venture is expected in the next two months. South West lost £300,000 in the first half of the year on Siba and would have to write-off £1.1m Investment column, page 24 of direct investment and a fur-

South West Water yesterday ther £6m of goodwill if it withdraws altogether. News of the setback came as South West announced unchan-

ged profits of £68m for the first half, an 8 per cent increase in the interim dividend and forecast that water restrictions were unlikely next summer because of its investment programme to improve supplies. Its reservoirs are 63 per cent full compared with 50 per cent this time last year. After paying a windfall tax of £104m, South West reported an after-tax loss of £40m. The company also con-

firmed that it is paying £450,000 to take a 50 per cent stake in Enviro-Logic, an independent consultancy with applications to develop 29 water supply schemes around the country.

Ken Harvey, the chairman who is still looking for a chief executive to hand over responsibilities to, described the investment as an important development which South West intended to pursue with vigour.

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OUTLOOK ON GOVERNMENT AID FOR ROLLS-ROYCE, BUSINESS AND POLITICS, AND THE CBI'S PROBLEM WITH EMU

Call it anything, but please don't call it aid

Please don't call it subsidy or state support and don't even refer to it as launch aid. Now that New Labour has established itself as the natural party of business it invests in partnerships with industry on a risk and revenue sharing basis. Whatever fancy term you chose to dress it up, £200m of Government money winged its way from Whitehall yesterday and the lucky recipient was Rolls-Royce, which will use the money to help fund three new Trent engines for the next generation of Airbus and Boeing jets. Stand by for another £200m to be dispensed any day now to another worthy cause, British Aerospace, which is also on the new Airbus

Repayable launch aid is hardly new it is the way Europe competes with the billions of dollars pumped into the US aerospace industry through indirect support for defence and space programmes. Nevertheless, yesterday's deal is something of a groundbreaker for Rolls and a feather in the cap of its chairman Sir Ralph

When the original Trent programme, Rolls most important engine development since the original RB211, was launched a decade ago Mrs Thatcher turned up her nose. She baulked at the cost and Rolls' prospects in a market dominated by GE and Pratt & Whitney of the US and refused to cough up a penny. Rolls was forced instead to go cap in hand to the Japanese, offering them a slice of the action in re-

turn for some upfront stake money. That has turned out to be a poor decision. The first two versions of the Trent

have scooped nearly 40 per cent of the many instances the purpose is to influence market for engines to power the latest widebodied Airbus and Boeing jets and Rolls reckons it can capture a similar share with its latest versions.

In fact earlier launch aid for other programmes is now turning into something of a cash cow for the Treasury. Rolls is contributing £30m a year while total repayments over the next few years will swell the Exchequer's coffers by some £500m. Doubtless BAe and Rolls will employ these arguments when they go for the big one - £700m in launch aid for the 600-seat double-decker Airbus super jumbo, the A3XX. John Battle, the industry minister, will need more evidence that a market exists for that project.

An explosive mix with politics

Launch aid is one thing, but in most cases business and Government just don't mix, as Labour, brimming full of naive enthusiasm for a genuine partnership with business when it first came into office, is discovering to its cost.

Most businessmen or companies when they donate money to political parties expect no more than to influence policy in a way which is generally favourable to the business environment. As much as anything, the purpose is that of getting their voice heard. On rare occasions, the motive is one of genuine altruism. But a sizeable minority expect rather more than that and this is where the difficulties begin. In

policy in favour of a particular commercial interest or against another.

That is certainly what the brewing lobby attempted to do with the last government, with some success. And it may have been Bernie Ecclestone's intention with his pre-election gift to the Labour Party and his more recent offer of financial assistance, though he denies this. In extreme cases, and we do not suggest Mr Ecclestone is one of these, the purpose is the overtly corrupt one of winning favours and contracts.

Perhaps the most surpising thing about the Ecclestone case is that Labour should have fallen into such a well signposted trap. For the roots of Labour's naivity on all this look back to the Labour Party conference of two years ago. This was the occasion of the famous deal launched with much fanfare between British Telecom and Tony Blair, under which BT would be released early from the ban on carrying broadcast entertainment across its network in return for wiring schools and other public institutions to the super highway.

In practice this turned out to be a relatively harmless sweetheart deal of limited significance. But it none the less established the principle that New Labour is prepared to grant commercial favours in return for something back.

This is "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours" politics and Mr Blair should not be surprised if some people think it corrupt. The purpose of Government is to establish a level playing field of public policy for business to operate

in, not to favour one set of commercial interests over another or to be in any way beholden to these interests. For every businessmen that Government favours, there will be another that the favour damages. Labour seems to be learning about this rather obvious truism the hard way.

Is the CBI the voice of business?

If the Confederation of British Industry thought this week's annual conference was dominated to an excessive degree by the single currency debate, then just wait until the great and the good of business reconvene in Birmingham in a year's time.

By then EMU will be a mere two months away. The hysterical euro polarisation of the last week may, with the benefit of hindsight, be remembered more like a sixth form balloon debate. By then, we will know who is in and who is out of EMU and the exchange rates at which the first wave will enter. The Blair administration will be staying out of Europe's most ambitious project while simultaneously leading from the front and the CBI will probably have produced another survey of its membership showing still more support for the single currency.

Unfortunately, we will not know whether business support has actually increased because the CBI, cleverly, never asks the same question twice, preferring instead to ask the question likely to illicit the biggest yes vote. And we will still not know whether the CBI really does speak

for the broad sweep of British business or merely the big multinational battalions with little geographic allegiance to Britain.

For all the CBI's unwavering support for a single currency, the fact is its membership has not lashed itself to the euro mast with quite the same enthusiasm as the club itself. The longest and the loudest ovation this week was reserved not for Gordon Brown or Niall FitzGerald, both euro en-

Actually it went to William Hague. Either the euro lemmings secretly agree with much of the Tory leader's prognosis on EMU or they must have a real liking for self flagellation. The euro engenders real dislike among a significant swathe of the business community for whom EMU signifies higher labour and social costs as much as lower transaction charges. Because the CBI is by its very nature corporatist in its approach, it finds it difficult to reflect these nuances and shades of opinion. The same is true whether it is speaking as the voice of British business on working hours or green taxes or even late payment for that matter.

Martin Taylor, the chief executive of Barclays, summed it up best when he said the choice facing business was to decide whether the economic risks of joining EMU were outweighed by the political risks of remaining outside. Between now and next November, the choice facing many company executives will be to decide whether to stay with an organisation that is bound to misrepresent some of them on one of the most fundamental economic and political decisions this century.

Britain beats off German and US competition in bid to produce 'baby' Jaguar

Agreement has been reached to keep the production of all Jaguar Mars in Britain. Barrie Gement, Labour Editor, finds unions expressing confidence that the new "mini-jag" will be made on Merseyside.

The Ford plant at Halewood has been chosen to manufacture the new "baby" Jaguar as part of an understanding reached by union leaders, it emerged yesterday. The Merseyside complex has beaten off bids from rival Ford sites in Germany and the USA to make the new model, union officials have been told.

Final decisions will have to be made by the US-based Ford Motor Company, which bought Jaguar in 1989, but motor industry unions are confident that Halewood will be chosen. It is understood that the boards of both Jaguar and Ford in Britain are behind the Halewood option and it is thought that the ultimate owners in America will rubber-stamp the decision. The American directors met yesterday at their headquarters in Dearborn, near Detroit, but it was unclear whether the Jaguar project was on the agenda.

: As part of the agreement struck by unions, management has issued guarantees about the future of existing Jaguar plants

in Coventry and Castle Bromwich to meet the concerns of workers there. The Transport and General Workers' Union has been told that existing models will continue to be built in the Midlands towns and that the plants will also manufacture future Jaguar marques. It was accepted, however, that Halewood was the only plant owned by Ford in the UK with sufficient spare capacity to take the new model, which is intended to compete with the

BMW 3 series. Unions concluded a deal with Ford earlier this year which included a promise that "multi-purpose" vehicle would be built at Halewood and it is understood that that the new mini Jaguar, codenamed X400, will be manufactured on

Merseyside instead. Some industry sources believe the "Ford Halewood" name - with all its past associations with union militancy might be ditched as part of an attempt to make the project

more consumer-friendly. Tony Woodley, chief negotiator for the motor industry at the transport union, said that the prospect of the "quintessentially British" car being built overseas may have been averted.

We believe there is a genuine business logic that the new baby Jaguar should be built in the this country. We find it inexplicable and I'm sure the Jaguar-buying public would find it inexplicable if this

vehicle was to be built outside the country," Mr Woodley said. He warned, however, that the final decision would depend on the support the Government could offer. Officials at the Department of Trade and Industry insisted last night there had been no "formal" approach for financial aid under Regional

> discosed towards the project. Mr Woodley said: "The quality and efficiency of the Halewood plant, coupled with its capacity, leads me to believe that Britain and Halewood should win the day on business logic. It would be in nobody's interests for Jaguar to move outside the UK."

Selective Assistance, but it is

known the Government is well

An official statement from Ford said that a study team from Jaguar was still evaluating the potential production sites in Britain, Europe and America. While the evaluation included a review of Halewood. it was too early to speculate on the final outcome of the review.

The statement conceded that management had been in discussions with unions over the implications if Halewood was the choice. "The company has reached a good measure of agreement, but naturally details are still a matter between the

company and the unions." Ford has already backed heavy investment for its Jaguar subsidiary to build a second saloon, codenamed X200, at



Home of the new Baby Jag': Unions and management have agreed to production at the Halewood plant

Capital Radio's £87m Virgin bid may fall foul of MMC advertising objections

Capital Radio may have to outsource Virgin Radio's advertising sales if the deal to merge the wo groups is to get dearance from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, according to City sources. Cathy Newman assesses the ehances of the merger being cleared, and the threat from a rival bid

Capital is known to have spent some time discussing the effect of its £87m bid for Virgin on the London advertising market. According to City sources, the MMC investigation is likely to recommend that the Virgin and Capital advertising sales operations are kept separate in The interests of competition. Capital's group chief exec-

launched yesterday by

Chris Evans, the DJ.

utive, David Mansfield, would not comment yesterday on discussions with the MMC.

However, he confirmed that Capital's share of the advertising market would inevitably be one of the main points under

Mr Mansfield added that he expected the Department of Trade and Industry to pronounce on the merger early next year, some weeks later than expected.

Capital already has the biggest share of national radio advertising, with 35 per cent of the market. Virgin has a further

Chris Evans, the celebrity DJ known as the "ginger whinger", has approached Virgin with a rival bid. Although Mr Evans is believed to be offering less than Capital, he is backed by Apas Partners, the venture capital company, and Virgin said yesterday it was taking the offer

A Virgin Radio spokesman said Mr Evans' offer would enable Richard Branson to get

a foothold in British television. "The deal with Evans, which we're still not too clear about, involves a merger which would give Branson some control over

Ginger [Productions, Mr Evans' broadcasting company]." Mr Mansfield said he was "not concerned" about the rival bid, and added that Mr Branson had "a lot of respect" for Capital. "He wants to join us round

the Capital table," he said. Capital is unlikely to get into an auction with Mr Evans, and is keen to tie up an exclusive agreement with Virgin in order to foil the DI's counter offer.

The news coincided with changes to the terms of Capital's offer for Virgin, although Capital denied yesterday that the two events were related. The alterations, prompted by the decline in Capital's share-price, will see Mr Branson's shareholding in the company capped at under 10 per cent, and although the £87m price remains fixed - more cash than shares will be offered in order

to avoid diluting earnings per

Mr Mansfield, who became chief executive after Richard Eyre left for ITV Network Centre, yesterday reported headline profit before tax of £35m, up 9.2 per cent. The dividend increased 10 per cent to 13.75p. He said that since the acquisition of the My Kinda Town restaurants business last year, Capital had evolved into a "music-based entertainment

He added that the Radio Café concept would be expanded, with many more in the London area and one each in Birmingham and Southampton. There is presently just one Radio Café in London's Leicester Square. Mr Mansfield sought to assuage City concerns about the expansion into catering with news that the development would be funded by restaurants disposals. Despite this, though, Capital's shares slid 11.5p to 472p.

Evans' bid for Virgin, page 3

General Cable lobbies Brussels to complain about BSkyB charges for sport and films

General Cable yesterday met a representative from the European Commission to complain about the way in which BSkyB charges cable operators for sports and film channels. Despite having its arguments thrown out by the UK competition authorities, the cable industry is hoping to convince Brussels that BSkyB is acting anti-competitively.

EC sources say that General Cable, the UK's fourth largest quoted cable company, is hoping to halve the cost of buying one premium sports or film channel from BSkyB. The company has taken its grievances over the satellite broadcaster's programme supply terms to Brussels after attempts to get the UK competition authorities to

intervene appear to have failed. At the end of last year, the Office of Fair Trading cleared BSkyB's rate-card which determined the terms on which the company supplied programming to cable operators. The decision caused uproar in the cable industry.

Customers who receive pay-TV through a satellite dish pay £20.99 to receive BSkyB's basic channels and one premium sports or film channel. Cable operators pay BSkyB and other programmers around £17 for a similar package. Cable companies claim the discount is insufficient to allow them to make reasonable profits on their television businesses.

General Cable charges its customers around £27 for basic channels and one premium channel, thereby making £10 of profits. However, the high cost to subscribers will inhibit uptake of cable television, the company alleges. General Cable declined to

comment yesterday. However, last month the company denounced the way it was forced "subsidise Mr Murdoch", and scaled back its involvement in cable television. Interim pretax losses of £25m this year resulted in General Cable raising its subscription prices and reducing the variety of television services on offer.

The company indicated at the time that it would only change its attitude to television if programme supply arrangements changed substantially. General Cable's confrontation with the EC appears to be a last-ditch attempt to overturn BSkyB's rate-card.

Although the OFT's approval of the existing rate-card at the end of last year angered cable companies, John Bridgeman, Director-general of the OFT, did make some concessions. Cable operators were, for example, given greater flexibility in what they were able to offer subscribers. However, BSkyB imposed financial penalties on cable operators buy-

ingifexible packages of channels. Cable companies were granted permission to offer both telephony and television in the early Nineties. The UK cable industry now makes most of its money from telephony because of the high cost of content and large number of customers failing to renew television subscriptions.

- Cathy Newman

Liddell helps mutuals with rule on voting

Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, yesterday moved to help protect the mutual status of building societies by changing a key rule covering voting rights. Any building society that wants to shed its mutual status and become a bank can now only take a vote on conversion at a general meeting when it has 50 per cent of its members present.

The change from 20 to 50 per cent in the number of members required at a meeting makes it harder for "carpetbaggers" - investors who open building society accounts in the hope of netting windfall gains from conversion - to force building societies into demutualisation. Ms Liddell said: "Mutuality does have a future. And it is worth fighting for."

This rule change could also hamper plans by the Bank of Ireland, which bought Bristol & West for £600m back in February, to gobble up another UK building society. Maurice Keane, chief executive designate of the Bank of Ireland, said yesterday that he intended to "expand by acquisition into the UK building society market".

Ms Liddell's move was warmly received by the industry. "Britannia Building Society welcomes Helen Liddell's announcement", said Gerald Gregory, Britannia's director of mutuality and marketing.

Adrian Coles, Director-General of the Building Societies Association, said: "Building societies are delighted that the Government has shown such a strong commitment to mutuality. The decision to increase the turnout rate for building society conversions will help societies to continue to promote the benefits of mutuality to their members".

Several building societies, including Halifax and Northern Rock, have recently shed their mutual status and converted into banks. They awarded their members large windfall gains in

According to Mr Keane, the ideal building society target for the Bank of Ireland would be located "in a similar geographic area" to Bristol & West, This would allow the Bank of Ireland to realise gains from rationalisation and to "get better value

from advertising spend", he said. Mr Keane's announcement coincided with the release yesterday of the Bank of Ireland's first-half figures. Pretax profits jumped 30 per cent to IR£173.5m (£154m) in the six months to September, ahead of

Rolls-Royce

Businesses warned insurers will not cover IT timebomb

British businesses were yesterday warned that they face liabilities running into tens of billions of pounds if they fail to modify computer systems in time for the millennium. Andrew Verity reports that insurers cannot cover risks associated with failure to address the problem.

Taskforce 2000, the Government-funded group tasked with raising awareness of the millennium problem, warned that the cost to companies of failing 2000 problems from policies. to change computer systems timated £30bn needed to fix the nies relying on commercial in-

problem before 31 December

Robert Guenier, executive director of Taskforce 2000, said. Businesses are now in a burning building and one by one the safety ladders are being kicked from underneath them.

"Who can blame the insurance industry for taking this firm line after finally waking up to the fact that it may face a deluge of claims for losses arising from the millennium problem."

The warning followed an announcement by the Association of British Insurers, which represents more than 95 per cent of the insurance industry, that insurers would exclude year

The announcement cuts off would be far in excess of the es-

surance to pay for the risk of commercial risks which may be their systems failing as a result associated with the millenmum of millenmum related defi-problem—where microchips fail ciencies in their microphicessors to distinguish between the year

Any system containing date 2000 and the year 1900. They dependent electronic parts - argue that insurance is deincluding security systems, lifts signed to cover an unforeseeescalators, air conditioning, able event whereas the heating, and telephone cast changes is likely to be affected. by the millennium problem. This is likely to create highlegal

members will exclude year 2000 cover. The association is circulating a "model exclusion" which and is offered by providers rules out claims on any loss caused directly or indirectly by a microchip that cannot process dates after 31 December 1999.

ance is usually renewed every year, few companies will be able to claim when the new exclusion insurance is renewed, all ABI Insurance which covers the millennium problem does exist

clusion in any new policies for . um problem to gain cover.

such as Minet and AIG. However, companiés must pass a tough test requiring them to show they are making every effort to deal with the millenni-Insurers will place the ex-

millennium problem is known

Because commercial insur-

John Hoemer (left) and Nigel Hall of Burton, the retail group, yesterday revealed that the total costs associated with the demerger of Debenhams will be £65m. Of the £55m related to the demerger itself, £14.6m will go on advisers fees, principally to Schroders and ING Barings. The associated reorganisation of the Dorothy Perkins and Top Shop multiples business, now re-named Arcadia, will be £10.7m, including £4m for job losses. A prospectus on the Debenhams demerger will be issued next month.



BAA reports 8 per cent rise in passenger numbers

BAA said its seven UK airports handled 9.4 million passengers: in October, representing an increase of 7.8 per cent on the same month last year. The company also released updated 10-year passenger traffic and capital expenditure forecasts for airports in the south-east of England. BAA forecasts that, above the level of its previous forecasts, an extra 7.6 million more passengers per annum will be using its London airports. It said this reflected growing underlying demand and confirmed the need for the proposed Terminal 5 to relieve increasing congestion at Heathrow and to maintain appropriate levels of customer service. No changes in the numbers of air transport movements have been assumed. Gatwick's forecastshave increased from 28.5 to 33 million passengers per annum in 2001/02 and from 31.8 to 38.5 million in 2006/07.

Pentex deal with Enron

Pentex Energy has struck a deal that will see Enron of the rentex Energy has struck a deal that will see Entful of the US providing up to £70m pounds of financing and taking a stake of around 11 per cent in the UK company. Enron, one of the world's largest integrated natural gas and electricity companies, will subscribe for 40 million new Pentex shares. for 18.5p each to raise about £7.4m. The deal also includes a £18.8m pre-payment for a crude oil swap involving one third of Pentex's total UK oil production for the next eight years. Enron will also make available an eight-year, £44m loan. Pentex will use the cash to repay bank debt and develop itsreserves and buy oil and gas assets. The company also plans to raise £5.4m by a one-for-10 rights issue at 18.5p per share.

Liberty family reject sale

The battle for control of the Liberty retail group took another twist yesterday when the founding Stewart-Liberty family and bel shareholder, Bryan Myerson, said they would not accept any takeover bid ahead of a planned emergency general meeting. The two groups, which control 44 per cent of Liberty, said a "fire sale" was not in the best interests of shareholders. The Liberty board said the family was attempting to gain control without paying a premium. It will detail today its plans for the group and the date of the emergency meeting where the Stewart-Liberty family expect to oust the chairman, Denis Cassidy.

Cooper takeovers Menvier

Cooper Industries of the US launched an agreed £164.5m, 310p per share, cash takeover bid for Menvier-Swain Group. The two companies said the offer represented a premium of approximately 51.2 per cent to the closing middle market quotation of 205p per Menvier-Swain share on 10 November. the day before bid talks were announced. Cooper has received. irrevocable undertakings to accept the offer from directors of Menvier-Swain and family interests representing approximately 13.4 per cent of the company's equity. H John Riley Jr, Cooper's chairman, said: "The acquisition of Menvier-Swain is another important step in our long-term strategy to enter new markets and extend the global reach of Cooper's Electrical Products segment. It is an exceptional opportunity to combine Menvier-Swain's strength in the European emergency lighting market with Cooper's existing activities."

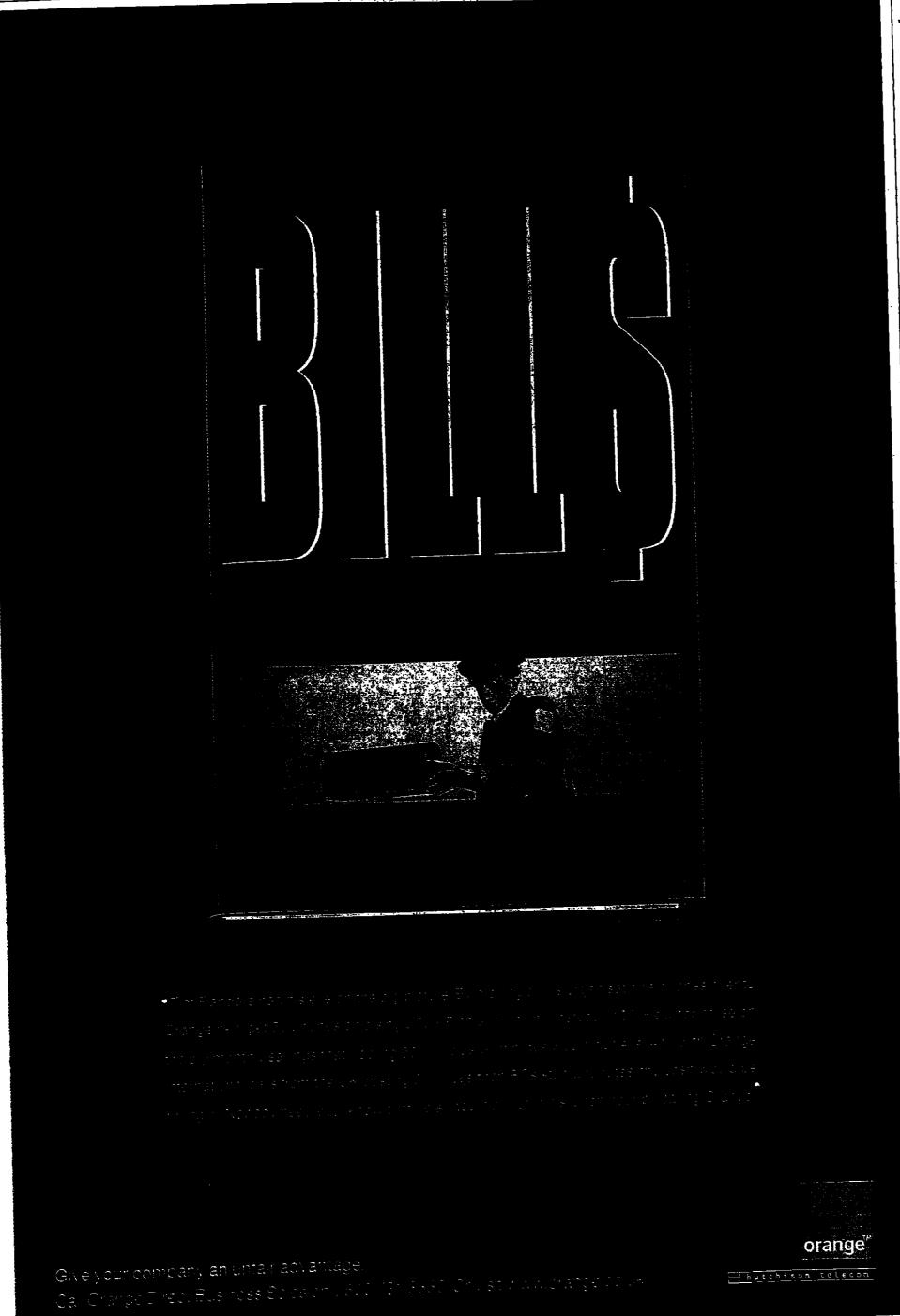
Thorn sells Fona to MBO

Thorn, the struggling Radio Rentals retailer, has sold its Danish electronics group. Fona, to a management buy-out for-£76m. Thorn will record an exceptional gain of £15m on the transaction. It will keep its DER rental operation in Denmark.

FKI disposes of auto group

FKI has agreed to sell its automotive group to Trident Automotive for £92.5m cash. The company expects to net £70m from the sale and will use the money to reduce borrowings. The disposed businesses comprise all of FKI's Automotive group except the Keeler Die Cast operation and the freehold. of the land and buildings located at Kentwood Michigan, US.

COMPANY F	CESOFI	2		
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend .
Bank of Ireland (1)	<u>- (-)</u>	lr251m (Ir193m)	33.6p (25.2p)	7.1p (6.1p)
Burton Group (F)	2.2bn (2.0bn)	122m (152m)	84-88-	3.4p (Z.8p)
Cantab Pharmacoutlesia (†)	- (-)	-0.05m (-2.31m)	0-14	nii (-)
Capital Radio (F)	86.1m (75.2m)	35.3m (32.0m)	32.1p (29.4p)	13.20 (12.50
Startled Group (I)	<u>- (-)</u>	14.4m (6.28m)	13.5p (8.4p)	8p (8p)
Porter Chafforn (I)	39.5m (35.6m)	2.7m (2.3m)	1.74p (1.65p)	0.3p (0.25p)
Property Parlocuskips (I)	- (-)	1.01m (0.84m)	9.37p (7.81p)	3.1p (2.9p)
Railtrack (I)	1.23bn (1.20bm)	190m (173m)	2.6p (33p)	7.9p (7.3p)
Regulien Props (I)	21.1m (11.4m)	1.90m (1.63m)		0.475p (0.4p)
Scape Group (I)	244m (250m)	29.2m (30.2m)	8.4p (8.6p)	2.05p (1.92p)
South West Water (I)	187m (174m)	68.0m (68.0m)	-30.9p (49.5 ₀)	13.2p (-)
Warner Howard (1)	13.1m (13.9m)		9.280 (10.94p)	
Yearsy & Co's Brawery (1)	39.8m (38.0m)		14.07p (12.65p)	3.85p (3.5p)
(F) - Final (I) - Interim (t) - Nine months		/ (TEXAL)	7.7ap (7.35p



23/SHARES

Rolls-Royce orders take off but its shares stay grounded

MARKET REPORT



yo M

DEREK PAIN

As the Rolls-Royce Motors im-broglio continues to fascinate ernment support. Up to £200m of taxpayers money is the stock market the car group's former parent, the Rolls-Royce business making aero engines, is on the verge of winning a round of lucrative

At next week's Dubai air show it is expected to have a rewarding time with airlines placing orders for the Airbus Industrie stretched 340 aircraft, featuring Rolls Trent engines.

Lufthansa is one with Rolls on its mind. The German air month. line is likely to head the queue to bolster Rolls order book, already benefiting from a stream of orders. Since the start of last month contracts worth more than \$1.5bn have been won. Besides Trent, orders have ambitions. covered regional aircraft and helicopter engines.

to be pumped into the development of a new generation of Trent engines over the next three years. The company believes it is on course to deliver double-digit earnings growth

over the next five years. Despite its bulging order book Rolls shares have failed to get airborne. They did hit 268.5p in June but Far Eastern links have eroded sentiment and the shares fell to 209p last

Vickers, which wants to sell its Rolls motor division, reversed 7p to 228.5p as BMW's display of road rage forced Mayllower, off a further 8p to 168.5p, to abandon its bid

Equities suffered another lacklustre run with Footsie, Rolls, just a shade higher at spinning haphazardly in a nar-

points at 4,711. Supporting shares were quick to get the downbeat message.

Exporters were again savaged as the poisonous cocktail of high interest rates and uncomfortably strong sterling took its toll. Among shares under pressure were Smiths Industries, TI, British Aerospace and GKN,

Zeneca fell 6p to 1,721p, lowest since the wpring. The shares have lost their exuberance, which lifted them to a 2,265p peak, as takeover hopes have faded. Now stockbroker Greig Middleton has suggested a sale on trading considerations. It has put a 1.520p valuation on the shares.

The drugs group, says Greig, is set to demonstrate superior growth in the next four years but prospects beyond 2,001 "do not support the curforming blue chip, speeding gain to 854p. Barclays fell 22p ahead 95p to 1,030p as interim profits prompted analysts to lift their projections for the year. UBS increased its esti-

mate by £15m to £400m. Another round of financial speculation was given a cautious reception. National Westminster Bank, said to have been re-targeted by Bar-



to 1,458p. Lloyds TSB was ruffled by

worries about its South American operations, softening 13.5p to 703.5p. Norwich Union, still the market's favourite insurance takeover play, gained 10.75p to a 363.75p peak.

Engineer Hunting fell 7.5p to 208.5p as Peel Hunt placed shares. Menvier-Swain, the electrical equipment group, duly collected its bid, gaining 41p to 302p. A US group Cooper Industries is offering 310p or £165m.

Etam, where the French Etam Developpement is offering 135p a share, held at 133.5p as the bidder's stake

moved above 50 per cent. Molins, the tobacco machinery maker, suffered an-

Railtrack was the best-per- clays, could only muster a 6p 327.5 on the latest profit

Thistie Hotels, where there is talk major shareholder Brierley Investments, is fretting about the weak share performance, was busily traded with three substantial trades at 152p. The quote ended at 153.5p. Cadhury Schweppes was firm at 591.5p as SBC Warburg said buy.

Newcomer Northern Recruitment, a jobs agency, moved to 125p from a 108p placing, Gyros, making keyhole surgery equipment, was placed at 14Sp and ended at 147.5p.

Johnson Matthey, the metals group, dumped 34.5p to 559p as Merrill Lynch said sell; the gold price at a 12-year low left Lourho off 6p at 90p.

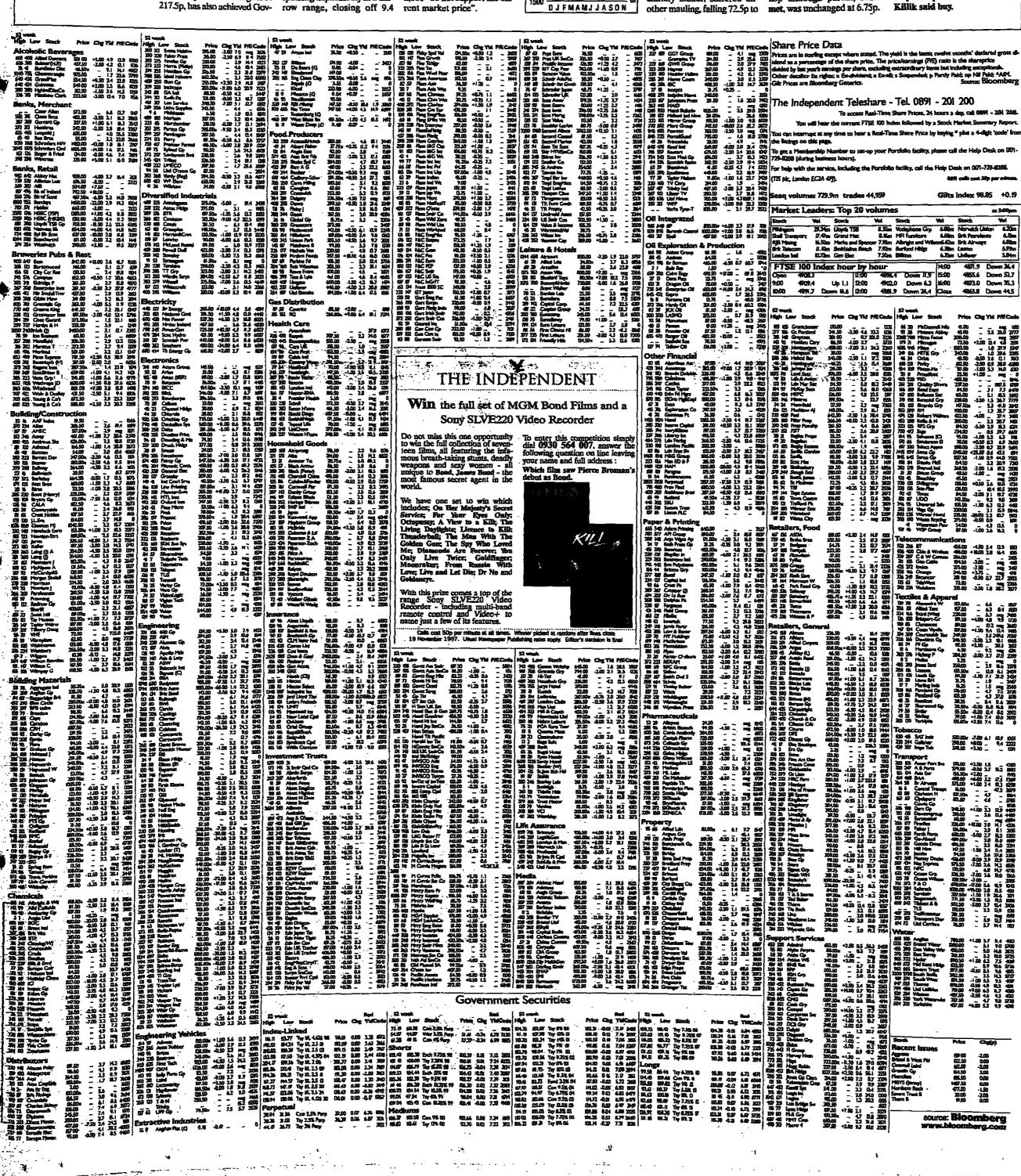
Even so the prospect of a Devon gold rush lifted Ofex share Crediton Minerals 4p to 23p although parent, Min-

TAKING STOCK

Anglesey Mining rose 2.5p to 16.5p as drilling started on Parys Mountain, the Anglesey development which has been described as Britain's biggest metal mining project this century. Parys was mined in Roman times and in the last century was one of the world's biggest copper producers. The company also has gold and silver leases in mid-Wales. Its shares were 2.25p in August. They were floated at 70p nine years ago.

Security printer Da La Rue, riding at 1,052p in 1995, is bumping along at 396p. Crédit Lyonnais Laing remains bearish and says sell. Hopes of substantial growth, it says, is "but the product of wishful thinking.

Verity, with water-thin speaker technology, added 2.5p to 73p as stockbroker Killik said buy.



THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

Burton bows out on a high

The City seems to like Burton's plans to spin-off its Debenhams department store business and the group's swansong results as a corporate entity yesterday added to the feel-good factor. Burton shares have perked up since the demerger was first announced in July. And though they are still well below their peak at the beginning of the year, there are signs that this is one demerger that is genuinely capable of enhancing shareholder value.

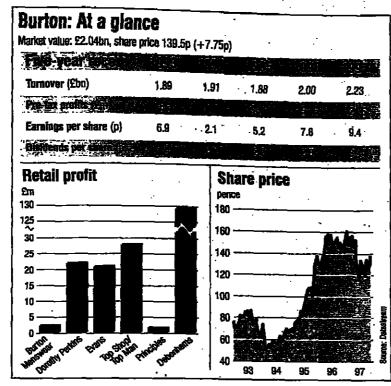
Full-year, pre-exceptional profits beat expectations with a 23 per cent increase to £187m. News of current trading was also re-assuring, with sales in the 10 weeks since the end of August 8.5 per cent ahead. The gross margin, which has been the bedrock of the Burton recovery, firmed by 0.6 percentage points on last year.

On latest estimates the two businesses are worth a combined 160p following the demerger, with Debenhams valued at around 100p and the newly named Arcadia worth about 60p. This compares to yesterday's close of 139.5p, up 7.75p. Debenhams could even be worth 180p on some calcula- backing. tions. There was good news on costs too with the re-organisation of the multiples business set to achieve savings of Exposure to the £10m-£15m a year.

brands with the ever-reliable Debenhams the best performer with a 10 per cent sales increase. But the profits fig- Scapa is not one of our best known comures show that there is work to be done panies. There is a mild flurry of in the multiples business. Though excitement when people discover it owns Dorothy Perkins, Evans and Top Sellotape, but disappointment soon Shop/Top Man all did well, profits at sets in when they realise is just the in-Burton Menswear and Principles both dustrial version of the familiar sticky roll. fell. The opening of four Style Union Scapa has also suffered the indignity of stores, which include all Burton's being dumped in the chemicals sector, menswear brands, may help as should when in fact it makes paper rollers and the inclusion of the Hawkshead mail industrial tape. Strange, but true. order division under the Burton Menswear umbrella.

A shake-up of the Arcadia portfolio given them a rocky ride. Shares in the is likely with the possibility of more company, which fell 7p to 232.5p yes-Racing Green outlets and Hawkshead terday on its half-year results, have seeconcessions to improve margins. The sawed from a high of near 270p in 1994 new home shopping catalogues look to well below 200p soon after, to re-

On upgraded group forecasts of £225m, the shares trade on a forward tempting to blame the notoriously



cyclical prices of pulp - paper's raw material. Around half of Scapa's

revenues flow from sales of industrial

materials to paper manufacturers. But

as paper manufacturers tend to pass-

on pulp price increases to customers

and as paper sales typically fall only

slightly when prices rise, higher pulp

prices do not really damage demand

business is conducted overseas and half

of all UK output is exported. So Scapa's

pound. In the first half, sterling knocked

profits by £4.9m in the six months to

September, leaving the headline num-

ing for currency, profits grew by over

10 per cent. Underlying performance

of the paper materials sector was

steady. The industrial tapes division,

which accounts for one-third of rev-

of this due to sterling. Moreover, effi-

ciency gains from cutting manage-

ment as businesses have been grouped

along global lines should flow in this

Fundamentals look sound. Adjust-

ber down 3 per cent to £29m.

Scapa's international exposure is

rating of 13. The fate of the shares depends on what John Hoerner, chief executive, can do with the multiples business. But his record looks worth

Sales last year were ahead in all pound hits Scapa

What investors who have stuck around will know is that Scapa has gain their former peak in 1996.

Why so volatile? At first glance, its

Interest Rates

Molins shares head south

What horrible things must Molins have done in a former life to warrant its fate this year? The company, which makes machines for producing cigarettes and PG Tips' tetrahedron teabags, yesterday announced its fifth profits warning of 1997. Is that a record? Though Peter Harrisson, chief executive, says he is not counting warnings, investors will be. Shares in the company have taken a largely uninterrupted slide downhill since their 1037p high in 1996.

After increasingly grave statements about trading in ... take a breath ... March, April, July and September and escalating costs related to dodgy accounting in the US, yesterday's trading news of worse-than-expected demand from China, nervous US customers ahead of a tobacco litigation settlement and 500 job cuts in the UK, felt like the final straw. Shares in Molins slumped 72.5p to 327.5p.

What is going on? The main problem is China, the world's biggest tobacco machinery market and a heck of a big customer for Molins, which with Germany's Haum, is one of the few suppliers of cigarette machines around. As part of a crackdown on corruption rife in China's tobacco industry, its 180-odd cigarette factories are being cleaned up and consolidated. That has meant a more to blame. Three-quarters of its hold on orders for machines.

Though the Chinese government promises Molins that things will return fortunes tend to rise and fall with the to normal "soon", that has yet to happen. So Molins has responded by cutting a quarter of its tobacco machinery workforce to meet demand and says a £30m provision this year will go to re-

ducing costs and improving efficiency. That is welcome, but would have made a better impression if it had been done ahead of the problem not in the middle of it. It is a sobering thought that at the start of 1997, analysts expected enues, performed strongly. Although Molins to make almost £40m of profits speciality materials, including filtration, this year. Brokers are now going for a had a relatively weak six months, much £20m full-year loss or £11m profit preexceptionals, down £4m on previous numbers. The shares are on 18 times earnings for 1997. With investors facing prospects of a held dividend and year. On a forward rating of 11, fair. continued uncertainty, avoid.

Liffe Financial Futures

PEOPLE & **BUSINESS**

JOHN WILLCOCK



There was one high-level departure from Credit Suisse First Boston (CSFB) in London yesterday and another this week from its takeover victim, the equities division of BZW. But neither move had anything to do with the impending reorganisation of both banks, you will be relieved to hear.

Ian Molson, CSFB's head of investment banking, is leaving to spend more time with his Canadian-based family business, the Molson

"Ian is leaving for personal reasons," a CSFB spokeswoman said, adding that Chris Carter would become head of European corporate and investment banking in his place. Mr Carter is currently head of global equities at CSFB.

Coincidentally, Karen Collins, chief accountant of BZW's equities division, has jumped ship to join Dresdner Kleinwort Benson in a newly created post, that of global research accountant and analyst.

Jamie Stevenson, head of global research at DKB, is horrified at the very suggestion that Ms Collins's departure from Barclays' stricken investment banking unit has anything to do with the takeover by the Gnomes of Zurich. "She's on gardening leave at the moment. She joins us in the new year," Mr Stevenson said. He said she is a leading expert in training analysts how to evaluate companies. As for when her recruitment was initiated, he said disarmingly: "I can't remember."

Mr Molson, 42, has been with CSFB for 20 years. In 1996 he became co-head of investment banking with Franz von Meyenburg of Credit Suisse Group, when Credit Suisse integrated its investment business with CSFB.

Mr Molson recently became chairman of a new executive committee of the Molson board. The Molson family owns more than half of the voting shares in the eponymous Toronto-based group.

Two of Britain's most important receivers are joining forces in a merger spurred by the growth of "behind the scenes" business rescue work, as opposed to the traditional pursuit of corporate undertaking. Begbies Traynor, whose

Industrial Metals

senior partner David Sapte is serving president of the Insolvency Practitioners Association, is merging with Geoffrey Martin and Company, the Leeds and Newcastle firm which includes Brendan Guilfoyle, the current president of the Society of Practitioners of Insolvency.

The IPA is a regulator of the profession, while the SPI is more of a trade body, representing 90 per cent of the country's licensed receivers. Nice to have poachers and gamekeepers around the same table for a change.

Speaking of which, the IPA has just handed down. a record £37,500 fine plus "six-figure" costs and a series of severe reprimands to Ray Hocking. a well known receiver and partner of BDO Stoy Hayward. Mr Hocking has agreed to the IPA's Investigation Committee making orders against him concerning his actions as liquidator of four separate companies. He has agreed that he "drew remuneration without obtaining the appropriate authority to do so" and that he drew remuneration in excess of the authority he was given to do so. He also admitted two other transgressions

of the IPA's rules. David Sapte commented: "The business community and the general public must have confidence in the insolvency profession. These cases show that the profession's monitoring system is effective in uncovering irregularities and that our disciplinary bodies are effective in disciplining members who fall short of the profession's high standards."

James Miller, the chairman of British industrial conglomerate Wassall, has died, the company announced yesterday. Mr Miller, who had been chairman since he helped launch the company in 1988, died on Wednesday night, the group said in a brief statement. He was until 1988 a director of Hanson, and he set up Wassall with two other former Hanson executives, his son Chris "Jock" Miller, who is chief executive, and Phillip Turner.

The other key player in Wassall is David Roper, Lord Prior's son-in-law, who qualified as an accountant at Peat Marwick, now KPMG.

Jim Miller, 72, chaired the company from the start and quite a lot of his family money is wrapped up in the company. Previously he was boss of company called Harris & Sheldon, which he took private in 1981, long before it was fashionable to do so. Harris & Sheldon spanned automotive engineering, property and fishing. It owned many of the best fishing areas of the river Tweed, including Junction Pool, a mecca for fishermen, I'm told, as well as Hardy's, the maker of rods and tackle.

Rouse & Co International, a law firm, and its associate Willoughby & Partners, have gobbled up Dallas Brett, an Oxford-based firm which specialises in intellectual property. "Dallas Brett has blown up," says a legal source, and its partnership will be dissolved. Willoughby will gain Anna Booy and Ben Goodger, leading IP specialists, while Hugh Brett, the founder of Dallas Brett and author of a racy piece of bedside reading, European Intellectual Property Law Review, will become a consultant to the firm.

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Australia Belgium Canada ECU France German Italy Japan Manda Spain Swede Stand US **Money Market Rates**

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World-wic

25/SPORT

Ruby awakening as the son rises

pert, and so came the handle,

er from a farming background

in Co Cork begat Ted, who be-

came a leader in the unpaid rid-

RICHARD EDMONDSON

NAP: I Recall

(Cheltenham 4.05)

NB: Irish Stamp

(3.35)

ing ranks and a scourge of

weak-willed jumpers. Even to-

day if you mention the name of

Ted Walsh in a stable all the

horses' heads duck down be-

hind the doors of their boxes.

The trainer and horse deal-

later shortened to Ruby.

Ireland's champion amateur jockey has his first ride at Cheltenham this afternoon. He has a notable lineage, but fails to follow at least one family trait, reports Richard Edmondson

Ray Hading

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Ted Walsh is Mr Ireland, or Mr Irish racing at least. He is a amateur riding champion, Festival-winning trainer and tele-

pounce with PERKNAPP. This 10-

year-old showed a liking for this track when third in the Grand Anmual Chase at the Festival in March. Flying Instructor has a lot of ability but could need this run. 3.00: Kilmington is an apple of Josh

out of being Ireland's new President. Today at Cheltenham however there is evidence of Walsh's proudest posting as he proves himself a distinguished sire.

The family Walsh is represented for the first time by Ted's son, a godsend to headline writers and a figure who could have inspired numbers by Johnny Cash and Kenny Rogers, a boy called Ruby.

This 18-year-old jockey is named after Ted's father, the last of 10 when the suspicion was his family was running out of Christian names. His birthday came on the feast of St Ru-

rould be a worthy favourite. Giv-

which to compare the merits of the Irish-trained runners with the home contingent. Perhans a small eachway stake on the lightly weighted REACH THE CLOUDS is best. proved himself over this track, is This five-year-old should be staying suited by the race conditions, and . on well at the finish.

was almost inevitable.

It was, however, the first

pionship the week after when

1.05 ORCHID MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS F) 23,300 added 2YO 5f

There is, however, more than one way to skin a horse and young Ruby has found a gos-samer touch. Last year, he, too, hecame amateur champion of Ireland with 35 wins. This year he has already posted 25 and will almost certainly overtake Pop's record of 48. "He's been knocking round the yard all his life and he just has a natural flair for riding," Ted said yesterday. "I was maybe strong and aggressive, and, while he has the same hunger, he is more polished. Someone like Richard Dun-

"He's a better jockey than I was now, but then that's not too hard for him. He's better but we don't know if he's as lucky as I was yet. He's definitely a lot more refined and modern-day than I was." This is just as well as Ted's technique owed much to the times when we used flints to start our fires.

woody would be his idol.

"He's 5ft 10 and a scrumhalf for the local rugby team," Walsh added. "His ambitions are to be a professional jockey. but nature will tell him whether that is to be. He's not growing up any more, but he's a tall chap like McCoy or Durwoody and it all depends on if he fills out."

Much will also depend on how he performs on big horses and big racecourses. Ruby has already been allowed on his father's Triumph Hurdle winner, Commanche Court, which is the equivalent of borrowing your Dad's car for the first time. and this afternoon at Prestbury Park he makes his British debut on Slaney Sauce in the the Sporting Index Chase.

The nine-year-old will not be the most unfit horse in the field. but on this occasion he may have to give second best to Irish Stamp (next best 3.35), who ran a cracker behind Bertone at Ascot a fortnight ago. This crosscountry course should hold no problems for Ferdie Murphy's chaser as he has been in the more life-threatening war zone of the Velka Pardubicka.

There are lots of fancy names represented in the televised handicap hurdle, but the unheralded I RECALL (nap 4.05) should go well. Opportunities exist, too, for the indefatigable Indian Jockey (2.25) and Kendal Cavalier (3.00), who looked a bit on the Teletubbie side before his victorious Chepstow reappearance last month.

CHELTENHAM

1.15 Pyr Four 3.00 Yahmi 1.50 The Flying Doctor (nb) 3.35 Blahops Hall 2.25 PERKNAPP (nap) 4.05 Reach The Clouds

2.25 PERKNAPP (nsp) 4,05 HBBGT 1176 C-10-00-6

GOING: Good (cross-country course - Good to Firm).

• Lett-hand, galoping course with stiff fences. Uptill run-in of 240 yd.

• Course is in north of town off A435. Bus fink from Chellenham station (served by Bristo, Birmingham and London, Paddington) 2m. ADMISSION: Cub 8. Teltersalls combined 54; Course Enclosure St. CAR PARK Free.

• LEADING TRANSERS (5-YEAR RECORD): M Pipe — 32 winners from 228 runners glees a success rate of 140%. P. Nicholean 27-162 (187%), N Testson-Device 22-200 (11%), J Gilford 17-105 (182%).

• LEADING JOCKEYS: N Williamson — 28 winners, 115 rides (243%), A P McCoy 23-94 (457%), A Maguire 22-445 (547%), M A Pitzgerald 13-118 (11%).

• FAVOURTES: 30 wits from 485 races (382%).

BLRIKERED FIRST TIME: The Prome (viscond, 300), Learisham (viscond, 405).

SETTING: 7-4 Court Melody, 15-8 James Pigg, 9-2 Grange Brake, 11-2 Pyr Four, 7-1 vurticals.

1898: no corresponding race

FORM GLEDE

Amateur-rider chases here are not the most reliable of betting mediums and this one, in particular, looks full of pirtials. JAMRSS PigG managed only sixth of nine to Lively Knight at Wincarnion sor days ago, but this course will suit him better — he is a dual course and distance winner — and he won for his amateur partner in a similar event here last month when 20 lengths too good for Paper Star, who was getting a tot of weight. James Pigg won five of this first seven starts two seatons ago and one of those wins was gained by a dozen lengths from Grange Brake at this venua. Grange Brake is 70 better in, but James Pigg had plenty in hand and was firshing shead of Grange Brake for a second time that saturin. Grange Brake is not an easy horse to catch right and may need this first race for 221 days, but he would have a strong chance at his best and is not too bady handcapped effer chawing a blank lest season. Court Melody is useful if none too consistent and he was a good fifth to statismate Belmont King in the Scottish Grand National effer his February third to Lord Gyllene at Utboster (4m 2f). Joe Tizzard sisered him to victory at Folkestone the previous month, but Court Melody enjoyed the out underfoot that day. Hillinglik has a chance off 10st 20b, but sometimes jumps low, while Pyr Fous, taked off behind Fire Thyne at Strattord a month ago, has a fair bit of ability but is an unvaliable jumper.

Selection: JAMES PigG

1.50 EUROBALE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 110yds

MUSEUM caught e tartar in the shape of Sr Dante whan a sty-length second to Pichard Rowes galding at Sandown in March, but won in good fashion at Folkestone the time before when, partnered by Xavier Alzpuru, he came home with 11 lengths to spare over previous winner Dissolve. True, the ground was bottomises that day and this surface could be in complete contrast, but Museum probably acts well enough on it to best this opposition. He was highly strung over limber two seasons ago, but there could be more improvement to come now that he is learning to sattle. Noble Colours was an eight-tength second to Desert Mountain at Wetherby last time and he had looked a shade unlucky when third to Mishamira here the time before – being blocked in his run conting down the hilf-le is promog a good buy at the 1300gras he cost at the Ascot October Sates test year, but is more exposed than Museum. Homey Trader has that dreaded aliment "secondists", but taked by only a nack to win a 13-numer hand-cap at Gowarn Park last moratic Come On Perany is a lightly-reade mare who won a 13-numer novices' hundle at Worcester first time up last season (Soptember), but lack of experience could be her downfall.

Selection: MUSEUM

2.25 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN TROPHY (HANDICAP CHASE) (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2m

- 7 declared ESTTING: 7-4 Indian Jockey, 4-1 Flying Instructor, 9-2 Cell Equiname, 7-1 Perlorapp, Amini,
10-1 Maker Octol, 10-1 Time Worth West.
1998: Komelda King 8 11 2 J Osborne 10-1 (O Sherwood) 4 ran
PORM GUIDE

ESTIMATER is a retrieval instruction of the control of the property of the control of t PORM GUIDE

PERIONAPP is a relatively lightly-raced 10-year-old who was in good form last teason and ren especially well when three lengths third, nearest at the finish, to Uncle Emile in the Grand Annual here. He was a few pounds outside the weights proper that day, but gets into this handicap with the racing weight of 10st 13th and Adrian Maguires mount has been given seven weeks to freshen up since a second in a Listowet handicap (2m 4f) in September, Indian Jackey passed his toughest test to date when, racing with his tongue tied down, he beet a decent field for the United House Construction ing with his tangue tied down, he best a decent field for the United House Construction Handicap Chese at Ascot last time. His record of 15 wins from 25 starts shows how well he has been placed and his confidence must be at a high, but he had 10st at Ascot and looks much more vulnerable here under 12st. Time Won't Walk was just be hind Perinsapp in the Grand Annual — a race he won the previous year — and has no weight put to help. He seems to be more of a spring horse. Mister Oddy must be one of Jeff King's favourites and goes well first time up. He held his form really well last season, but likes to dominate and prefers some out in the ground. Amilah is a free-poing sort, so, so could spoil Mister Oddy's fur. Flying Instructor looks a better chaser than he was a hundler and his fourth to Or Royal in the Aride here was a commendable effort, as wes his Aintree effort etherwards. He felt three out in the novices' chase there, but might well have troubled Multigan otherwise. Call Equiname is as progressive as any of these and began his chasing career last season with novice wins at Chepetow and Worcester, but this is his first outing for 384 days.

Selection: PER(NAPP)

3.00 STEEL PLATE AND SECTIONS NOVICE CHASE C4

Issues Storm tracter 7 til 5 M Richards 8-1 (C Weston) 4 ris

PORMI GUIDE

Vahrini put in some sterling efforts over hurdles lest season, but did not always find much off the bridle – notably when fourth to Forest twory at Alintrea in the spring. The way he jumped hurdles lende encouragement to his prospects of melding it as a chesses, but perhaps a bere three miles will suit him better. THE PROMS did not jump at all fluently in the process of beating Alassian Heir at Haydock the other day, but he cam get better, particularly in the first-line visco. This is much more competitive, but this son of Ochestra impressed when giving Silly Money (Market Rasen winner yesterday). Who and a beating in a novices' handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m) lest February and he should have the necessary stamine. Klimington, from the inform Jose Gifford yeard, looks the sort to progress and it just a question of whether right-handed courses suit him better. Cookins Lord has fair form in reland, while Kandair Cavetiles locks beet able under his parally and prefers plenty of give in the ground. Strong Chairman, a prolific winning point-to-pointer, as clearly wall regarded to be running in this race. At six, he looks quite exciting.

3.35 SPORTING INDEX CHASE (CROSS COUNTRY C4

12 12825- FRODLERS PIKE (215) (Ma R Henderson) Mrs R Henderson 18 10 7

4.05 MURPHY'S 'IN A BOTTLE' NOVICE HANDICAP C4
HURDLE (CLASS D) £10,000 added 2m 110yds

Prince Xirasa, rezzon, urranema, in FORM GUIDE
TRUTCHEV had norm for improvement in his jumping last season when showing promise for Henrietta Knight. Making his debut for Dead Nicholson at Ensier last month, he trotted up in a weak race and could be well in. He cost 31000 great out of Roger Charlton's stable. Noble Team and Phide Of Kestmar have been melding hay in softer races and, while both must be feared, so must the JP McMarus-Derned Lawstatam, who has Charlie Swan on board, is viscored first time and looks the pick of the lifeh reiders. Prince Khasty ran his best race so far in defeat when third to the classy recruit Poundry Lane at Heydock, while Northern Drums has won four on the reel and might still be alread of the hendicapper.

Selection: TUTCHEV

EQUESTRIANISM

Harrogate on the map after Lottery award

The 1999 European Show Jumping Championships are likely to take place at the Yorkshire Agricultural Society's showground at Harrogate, thanks to an award of £481,880 from lottery funds.

The English Sports Council, who administer the World Class Events Programme of the Lottery Sports Fund, has agreed in principle to the payment. It remains for the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) to award the championships to Britain, which seems probable now that lottery funding has been agreed.

The last time a major international show jumping title was decided in Britain was back in 1982 at Hickstead, where Paul Schockemöhle won the second of his three individual European titles. The FEI Bureau, now meeting in Toronto, is expected to back the Harrogate bid as a means of returning Britain to the centre of the show jumping stage.

Harrogate has never yet hosted a major international show, but it has all the necessary facilities - as acknowledged when it was part of the British bid that finished second for the 1998 World Equestrian Games.

"The site is ideal," Simon-Brooks-Ward, who has helped in negotiations for Lotterv funds, said. "It has a delightful oval-shaped arena as well as permanent stabling and catering facilities."

Brooks-Ward, who runs the Royal Windsor and Olympia shows, will be Championship Director of the big event if the plans reach fruition.

The submission to the Sports Council was prepared by Andrew Finding (secretary general of the British Show Jumping Association), Bill Henson (director of Burghley and Bramham Three-Day Events) and Brooks-Ward.

Sir Rodney Walker, chairman of the English Sports Council, has already given his encouragement by describing the Harrogate project as "precisely the type of event that the World Class Programme was established to support."

- Genevieve Murphy

SAILING

Pressure on in Whitbread

Two full gales are predicted for the Whitbread fleet over the next 72 hours as they barrel their way through the Southern Ocean on the second leg from Cape Town to Fremantle, Western Australia.

Still way out in the lead is Gunnar Krantz in Swedish Match, 190 miles ahead of Innovation Kvaerner and another 100 in front of Toshiba. These three are well clear of a chasing group of five, any of whom could make big gains in terms of places.

EF Language skipper, Paul Cayard, says he is heading for 52 degrees south and investing in the future. "I am really enjoying this experience. It is the ultimate camping trip and the only time in my life I can get focused on just one thing," he said yesterday.

On third-placed Toshiba, the British skipper, Paul Stand-bridge, said: "The Southern Ocean we all know so well has arrived in full force, but we are worrying about a high pressure ridge that is moving in on us." Second-placed Knut Frostad on Norway's Innovation Kvaerner said that, while they had pulled back 40 miles on Swedish Match, damage, which was already affecting them, was something that all the boats would now have to be wary about.

Stuart Alexander

	THE INDEPENDENT				
RACING	SERV	ICES			
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raconteur, horse trader, former vision commentator. It came as a profound surprise when Mary McAleese edged him CHELTENHAM 2.25: Indian Jockey will be strong-ly fancied to follow up his all-theway Ascot victory a fortnight ago. But he has been raised 61b for that win and Adrian Maguire could

Gifford's eye and this eight-year-old must be respected, even though his Kempton win last week was in a

As well as the glamour, there

has been mischievousness for

Frankie Dettori this year, a sin-

ning season which culminated

in a 21-day blanket suspension

yesterday, the first of its kind

imposed by the Jockey Club.

crative Japan Cup, which he

collected on Singspiel 12

months ago, as well as the Su-

Dettori will now miss the lu-

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

four-horse race in which the hot favourite fell. The most likely result here though is success for YAHMI. reportedly well forward for this.

3.35: This cross-country course presents a riddle for punters. At least Irish Stamp has already

other bank manager-pleasing

event, also in Japan. The last

seven days of his ban have

been deferred until the start of

the next Flat turf season and

will be activated only if he

careless riding at Goodwood. It

was his sixth offence of the sea-

Dettori's latest crime was of

transgresses in the interim.

ing weight away to all, however, is BISHOPS HALL, who could spring a surprise if the going remains on the fast side. Harry de Bromhead's runner has class and deserves a change of back.

4.05: Another puzzling betting medium, with little evidence on

World-wide ban imposed upon Dettori when you go at 40mph you per Jockeys' Challenge, an: son and a suspension of 21 days I was meant to represent Eng-

land," the jockey said yesterday.

"It's a huge payday for us and something I always like to do. time a punishment had been extended to racing outside "I was planning to ride on Britain. Luca Cumani's Mons the all-weather because I was will now need a new partner in going to Japan and I wanted to Tokyo a week tomorrow. "I'm keep fit, but obviously that's not going to be possible now. not just missing the Japan Cup but the Super Jockeys' cham-

L Chemock 13
Deen NcKsown 2 B
S Whitworth 6
M Tebbut 9

".F Lymch 1

em (5) 11

"Let's not forget that racing is a very competitive sport and

times you make a slight error. "I don't complain at all

make a split decision and some-

about the system, but I just feel a little bit unfortunate it's happened to me this year. Let's hope I can keep a clean sheet next year and win some good races."

- Richard Edmondson

SOUTHWELL (AW)

HYPERION 12.05 Bold Aristocrat 12.35 Ramsey Hope 1.05 Cape Hope 1.40 Ma Vielle Pouque 2.15 Pas De Memoires 2.45 Ocker 3.20 Blue Zola 3.55 Paradise Navy

GOBIG: Standard.

STALLS: 51, 'mpf' - outside; rest - inside DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Fibreaand surface; left-hand sharp, oval course.

Rececourse is 3m SE of town and 5m W of Newark, Rodeston Junction adjoins course. ADMISSION: Caub \$12; Tetressals 28 (OAP members of courses Diamond Club \$4, CAR PARK: Firse.

© LEADING TRAINERS: M Johnston 53-349 (213%), S Bowling 45-571 (24%),

© LEPARTS I MAIREMS: IN JOHNSON 3-565 (E.176) S DOWNING 40-541 (12/74),

D Chapman 44-426 (10.3%) J Bearn 35-365 (3.7%),

© LEADING JOCKEYS: J Quinn 46-564 (2.2%), Dean McKeown 37-342 (10.8%),

L Chambook 31-361 (0.8%) G Duffield 30-234 (11.8%),

PAVOUNITIES: 561-4008 (3.36%),

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: 56's Folly (12.05), E B Treasure (viscred) (3.20), 12.05 ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND HANDICAP STAKES (CLASS F) (DIV I) £3,300 added 7f

— 10 cascareo — BETTING: 13-2 Bold Aristocrat, Zalotto, Al Raet, 7-1 Ed's Folly, 10-1 Trojan Hero, Be Vitamed, Chekuz, Warp Drive, 12-1 others

12.35 CARNATION CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) (DIV I) 53,300 added 6f

-16 declared BETTING: 7-2 The Happy Fox, 9-2 Davis Rock, 13-2 Sifk Cottage, Pelitic Danseuse, 8-1 Ultra Best, Henrir Golf Stormer, 12-1 Divide And Rule, 16 others 2.15 FARMERS WEEKLY NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 2YO 7f 8 50330 MALOZZA (17) (C) P Earre 8 4 Benedichlo Halvorsan (S) 3 8 3200 PRIX TICKET (13) P Earre 8 4 A McCardiny (7) 8 10 003 LITTLE CRACKER (ST) A Newcombe 7 13 Filotop 1 400053 SSLAND GRR (13) D Arbuffron 7 12 Meerin Dayer 2 -11 decirred -1 Meerin Dayer 2 RETTING: 9-4 Pas de Memobres, 11-2 Balando, 6-1 Prince Ashinigh, 8-1 Russian Romeo, Main Street, Plak Ticket, 10-1 Smooth Princess, Nelezza, 12-1 others

- 17 despired... BETTBIG: 5-2 Adjunta, 3-1 Ballasilla, 5-1 Glass River, 13-2 Red Pupper, 8-1 Sun Dancing, 10-1 Cape Hope, 14-1 Amber Regent, Tie Breek, 16-1 Others Vale, Molly Mosic, Ockes, Lagued Of Aragon, 10-1 others 3.20 LILY SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,875 added 2YO 1m 1.40 CARNATION CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) (DIV II) £3,300 added 6f

(CLASS E) £4,025 80000 210 11

66420 PRINCE ASHLEGH (21) P Hudum 9 7 L Charmock 6
50005 RUSSIAN ROMEO (27) B Molketon 9 0 S Righton (7) 10 B
06900 BALANTA (22) D B Palling 8 15 T Sprain 8

402 MAIN STREET (13) W Haggas 6 12 F Lynch 7.
08300 LEOTRIC (28) M Poljean 8 10 Dane O'Hall 11 B
0022 PAS DE MEMORRES (10) M Tompkins 8 8 Dane O'Hall 11 B
0025 SHOOTH PRINCESS (25) (CD) J FitzGenid 8 7
Bennedictio Halvorson (5) 3
10 Outre 4

2.45 ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND HANDICAP STAKES (CLASS F) (DIV II) £3,300 added 71 025206 THE BARNSLEY BELLE (8) (CD) JL Sym 4 9 72..... S Buckley (7) 2

3.55 IRIS AMATEUR RIDERS' HANDICAP (CLASS G) \$2,875 added 1m 6f

Minimum weight: set 70. Taue inerdices weights: Single Man Set 66s, El Nido Set 50s, Notation Set 20s, Elisae 8et 11b. rrempert use das, pusset det i 122. BETTINES, -2 Paradise Many, 5-1 Navel Gennes, 7-1 Whitley Grange Boy, Ceatle Secret, 8-1 Rex Mandi, Tol Tol, Spick And Span, 10-1 others 2.35 CITY OF EXETER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 6f 110yds

RACING RESULTS TAUNTON

TALINTON

1.00: 1. LITTLE HOOLIGAN (I. Aspal)
4-1 it fav; 2. Hubert 4-1 it fav; 3. Obelos
5-1 11 ran. 1/s. 1/s. (S. Kright, Taurson). Roles
2-290: E10: E100; E90. DF: E780. CSF:
2795: Thosat: E72.06. This: E83.0.
10: 1. TWO TO TANGO (C. Llewelyn)
10-1; 2. Not For Parrot 25-1; 3. King Mole
evens fav. 14 ran. 1/s. 2. N. Ferston Daviss
Chelsenhaml. Totes: E700; E190, E501, E100.
DF: E894.0. CSF: E1994.3. This: E7590.
2.05: 1. EKELIS (J. Dr. E7590.
2. Carrity Say 25-1; 3. Indian Remple 20-1 17
ran. 1-8-8 tav Supermick (Reft. 5; 4). (King.
Savindan). Biss: £450; £300, £300, £300. DF:
2.55: 1. A. S. JMM (Mr H. Offer). 100-S0; 2.
2.05: 1. A. S. JMM (Mr H. Offer). 100-S0; 2.
2.05: 1. A. S. JMM (Mr H. Offer). 100-S0; 2.
2.05: 1. DREAM LEADER (A. P. McCoyl).
3.12. Steeple Jack 18-1; 3. Jankhrenkar
1-1-1 oran. 5-2 fav Griss Grauley, 2-3; 3.
1-1 DECYBORG (A. P. McCoyl) evens
18-1: 2. St. Mediton Leisure 2-1; 3. Weaver
18-1: 2. St. Mediton Leisure 2-1; 3. Weaver
18-1: 2. St. Mediton Leisure 2-1; 3. Strong Brant
18-1: 2. Lincky Foods 20-1; 3. Strong Brant
18-1: 2. Lincky Foo

remained unalitiesed.
Jackpot: not won (pool of £11,552,75 carled forward to Chaltenham today).
Placepot: £134,40, Guadpot: £138,50.
Place 6: £178,96, Place 5: £125,55.

Place & C17896 Place 5: C2555.

LINGFIELD

T220: 1. NOR'S DEED (A Whelen) 4-1;
2. Robe Magic 18-1; 3. Everset 11-4 as.
2. Robe Magic 18-1; 3. Everset 11-4 as.
11 ran. 514-hd, 11-4 (Mass Gay Keleursy).
10 less (7:30; £2:30, £3:30, £1:30, £1:40, £1: Marien, Heights. 1.20: 1. SURE TO DREAM (R Perham) 14-1; 2. Blue Lamp 11-10 fax; 3. Durable 14-1; 2. Blue Lamp 11-10 fax; 3. (R Pridips). George. 100-1, 10 mm. 11/4, 1/4. (R Pridips).

Total £20,60; £400, £100, £5,60, DF; £15,00
CSF; £20,81 Pric; £35,60 (part wort), NF;
Kirmenna Larly, Wid Nortie.
1, 50; 1, 31,51 ANOTHER TIME (C.
Lowfrer) 100,30 late; 2, Mular's Mangale 20-7;
3, Ok Babe 9-2, 14 mm, ½, hd. (J. Barry),
Rose; £220; £160, B430, £230, DF; £58,40
CSF; £720, Tric; £25,00
2,25; 1, RALSE A PRINCE (W Ryam) 7-2;
2, Filles 9-4 fax; 3, Edan Heighits 7-1, 7 mm,
2/h, ½, (B Woods), Total; £300; £200, £201, £201,
DF; £460, CSF; £125, NF; Night CBy,
2,55; 1, PALISANDER (P. Doe) 4-1; 2,
Gold Œlipper 33-1; 3, Guesstimation 17-2;
11 ran, 3-1 fax Perhash, 2, 374, (S. Dow), Total
54,60; £140, £530, £120, DF; £200, CSF;
£26,81, Pricsat; £57752, Tric; £3180,
3,25; 1, Night? WIGH, [M Hay) 13-6; 2,
Special Person 15-1; 3, Rubasums 8-4 law,
11 ran, 3, rk (B Hay) Total £200; £130, £240,
£10, DF; £530, CSF;
£101, F350, CSF;
£102, £1500, £1500; £130, £240,
£102, £1500, £1500; £130, £240,
£103, £1500, £1500, £1300, £1300,
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Right-hand, undustring course. Run-In of 250 yeards.

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CAR PARIC: 52 on mile: 52 members; remainder fitse: 6s free).

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2.00 SW RACING CLUB CONDITIONALS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) 22,400 added 2m 1f 110yds

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2512- RECTORY GARDEN (203) T Forster 8 11 10 ... A Thomston 012P4 WEE WINDY (16) (0) J Giffort 8 11 7 ... P Hide 1PF4- HLL TRDX (256) K Birbory 11 1 ... R Johnson 21/F31 ABANARD (10) (CD) R Frost 8 11 0 (Sec) ... J Frost BETTING: 6-4 Absented, 7-4 Rectory Gerden, 5-2 Wee Windy, 14-1 HE Titx 3.10 CITY OF EXETER NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 6f HUHDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 6f

2252P PORRIDGE RILL (5) J Bachelor 7 ti 10 S Fox

2252N KARICLEGH BOY (7) (C) R Frost 9 ti 3 T O'Conner (7)

3 2-5235 SPARKLING BUCK (62) N Aylite 5 10 2 Goy Levis (3)

4 POSES SPARKLING BUCK (62) N Aylite 5 10 2 Goy Levis (3)

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6 804-4 BROWN WREN (10) P Indices 7 10 4 his R Widger (7)

7 5FPP/0 TAL SPW (12) Mr. J Sorivers 2 10 0 T Descentive 8

8 00FP-0 KYLE DAVID (26) F Jordan 5 10 0 R Ferrant

9 0FP-0 KYLE DAVID (26) F Jordan 5 10 0 R Ferrant

9 0FP-0 SILA'S DREAM (5) G Hom 8 10 0 S L Phindey (5) V

— 9 declared —

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BETTRIC: 11-4 Brown When, 3-1 Spiral Figur, 9-2 Sparkling Back, Paince-Parade, 5-1 Kericlaigh Boy; 12-1 Suln's Dream, 18-1 others 3.45 SOUTH WEST RACING CLUB NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 3f

4.15 TARKA HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 3f

Advisuum: 10st. True weighte: Pole The Parties Sat 12th, The Minter Sat 5th. BET TRIC: 5-2 Crimoon King, 7-2 Doyalas, 9-2 Pule The Parson, 11-2 Holdinaises, Seymoustell, 9-1 "Iggins, 12-1 The Minder, 29-1 Rusty Reel

Striking gaps in the French preparations

With just over six months to go before they host the 1998 World Cup finals, France appear strong in all departments - except

Phil Show on the continuing search for a Gallic goalscorer.

Saint-Etienne was once Napoleon's arsenal and nowadays manufactures tanks. In symbolic terms, it seemed the ideal setting for France to discover fresh firepower ahead of the World Cup finals. Instead, Wednesday's flattering victory over Scotland provided another damp squib for Aimé Jacquet's team.

As the French remember fondly from their triumph in the European Championships of 1984, host nations tend to fare well in major tournaments. Viewed in a purely statistical light, France appear to be on course to maintain that tradition next summer. They have now lost just two of their 39 matches under Jacquet, with only England winning in the last 20 games on French soil.

The facts mask worrying signs, however, especially in the striking department. Having called up the heavy artillery in the shape of the two leading scorers in domestic football, Stephane Guivarc'h and Lilian Laslandes, Jacquet must have been disconcerted to find that neither was sufficiently sharp to trouble unduly a Scottish defence lacking its linchpin, Colin Hendry.

It took a full-back, Pierre Laigle, to score France's first, with a generous assist from the Scotland goalkeeper Neil Sullivan. Gordon Durie equalised immediately and might have had a hat-trick before Laigle was fouled in the penalty area. Youri Djorkaeff scored from the spot to secure a repeat of last mouth's similarly unconvincing defeat of South Africa.

A local crowd weaned on Michel Platini and "les Verts" of Saint-Etienne, who reached the European Cup final 21 years ago, were not won over. When the final whistle sounded, they made their displeasure painfully apparent.

Winning, it appears, is not enough in itself for France, although priorities are liable to change entirely once the rest of the planet arrives in June. Jacquet may well have been right when he said: "Nobody will complain if we win the World Cup final 1-0."

Yet the French look no more menacing or unpredictable in attack than during Euro 96, when feebleness in front of goal cost them dear. Not only did they fail Hurst.

to score in 120 minutes against a modestly equipped Czech Republic in the semi-final, but they could not beat them on penalties either

That the problem persists can be gauged from the demands for the recall of Jean-Pierre Papin, who was to Gerard Houllier's regime what Gary Lineker was to Bobby Robson's. Now pushing 34, Papin is partnering Laslandes at Bordeaux. Nicolas Quedec, of Espanyol, is a more plausible candidate, but the likelihood is that France will go into the finals with an unproven strike force.

The biggest redeeming feature of the showing against Scotland was the form of Zinedine Zidane. Despite being followed everywhere by Billy Mckinlay, the Juventus playmaker demonstrated much of the cunning, vision and expertise on set-pieces that persuaded Jacquet he could afford to ditch Eric Cantona.

Zidane received good support from Didier Deschamps, the player once derided by Cantona as a near "water carrier" while Arsenal's Emmanuel Petit provided an industrious foil for his more gifted colleagues.

On paper, defence is France's strongest suit. Lilian Thuram is arguably the best and quickest defender in Serie A, with Marcel Desailly not far behind. Which made it all the more surprising that the Scots carved them open on several occasions, pointing up a lack of pace in Laurent Blanc which could be more ruthlessly exploited by the South Americans and Africans

For all that, Craig Brown cautioned yesterday against writing off France as potential world champions. "I still think they could be real contenders," the Scotland manager said. "The dress rehearsal is never the final production. They've got an excellent coach plus some magnificent players like Zidane. Deschamps and Desailly - it's just that they lack a cutting edge."

tles? "It may have been that they expected us to be cannon fodder because last time we were in France, in Paris eight years ago, we got beaten 3-0. Another reason is perhaps that the fans see club sides like Strasbourg beating Rangers and Liverpool without anyone in Jacquet's squad. So they expect the national team to wipe the

floor with us." The French cockerel may be carping rather than crowing right now. But with seven months to go, the precedents suggest there is still time for a goalscorer to emerge. There were, after all, barely four months left before the 1966 finals when England first took a chance on a certain Geoff



second leg against Russia in Naples tomorrow. The first leg in Moscow ended 1-1 Photograph: Plinio Lepri/AP

Signori blow for West Ham

Harry Redknapp, has pulled out of an ambitious bid to sign Lazio's Guiseppe Signori on loan - because the player's

wage demands were too high. Redknapp had hoped to land the Italian international So why the jeers and whis- of the season, but his personal terms and a loan fee of £200,000 scuppered the deal.

Signori is believed to have wanted about £800,000 to spend the rest of the season at Upton Park, and Redknapp admitted that was too big a price to pay. However, he added: "He would have been a fantastic player for the club, there's no doubt about that."

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, will travel to Santiago to watch Chile's centre-forward in action against Bolivia in a World Cup qualifier on Sunday. The 22year-old has reportedly been priced at £12m by his Argentinian club, River Plate, but Ferguson said: "The fee for Salas is not something that concerns me at this moment. He is still

The West Ham manager, a young player with many good veats ahead of him. I am going out there with an open mind. simply to have a look at him for myself in action."

United were relieved to hear yesterday that Gary Palstriker, 31, on loan until the end half, may be back in action soon. A scan on the back injury that caused him to withdraw from the England squad to face Cameroon tomorrow showed no serious damage.

The Sunderland striker Craig Russell will complete a transfer to Manchester City if he passes a medical this morning. The wing-back Nicky Summerbee will move in the opposite direction - both players are valued at £1m.

Ipswich Town have paid £800,000 for the Bury striker David Johnson. The centreback Chris Swailes, valued at £200,000, has moved to Gigg Lane as part of the deal.

Blackburn Rovers are chasing Oldham Athletic's England Under-21 left-back, Carl Serrant, who was a target for Southampton last season.

Middlesbrough are hoping to sign the Manchester United winger Ben Thornley, who is also wanted by Huddersfield.

for around £750,000. Premier League clubs can expect to receive £100m from lister, their England centre- a three-year deal to screen matches overseas which was given the approval of club chairmen in London yesterday.

The deal has not vet been signed but a contract is likely to be finalised in the near future. The current deal, which was agreed in 1992, is worth just £9m per year. Yesterday's meeting approved a bid from Mark Mc-Cormack's TWI Group and the French television company, Canal Plus, in preference to a bid from CSI, the sports marketing company which currently holds the contract.

The new deal is in addition to the £740m television contract that the Premier League has signed until 2001 with BSkvB and the BBC for the rights to televise Premiership matches in this country.

~ Rupert Metcalf and Alan Nixon

Better news for McCarthy

Mick McCarthy, the Republic of Ireland manager, had some welcome good news yesterday: his veteran midfielder Ray Houghton came through his first training session of the week to clear up doubts over an sion that Marinjured ankle. The former Liv- gate's secretary erpool man can now expect to start tomorrow's World Cup play-off second leg against Bel-

gium in Brussels. "He has done everything that was asked of him and he is certainly available for selection," McCarthy said. The fullback Terry Phelan is out of contention, though, showing no improvement in the calf iniury he collected during training on Tuesday. Blackburn's Jeff Kenna will probably be recalled in place of the injured Denis Irwin at right-back, with Steve Staunton on the left.

Another man with injury problems is Cesare Maldini. Italy's coach, whose side meet Russia in Naples tomorrow. Christian Vieri is out and his understudy at centre-forward, Pierluigi Casiraghi, is not fully fit, which could mean a starting place for Fabrizio Ravanelli.

The Russian coach, Boris Ignatiev, also has problems. Two members of his squad failed to show up in Naples, "I don't know where [Valeri] Yesipov and [Yevgeni] Bushmanov have got to," he said. It later transpired that Yesipov was preparing for a knee operation, while Bushmanov's club, Torpedo Moscow, said he had not travelled to Italy because his airline ticket was not delivered in time for the squad's departure.

were thrashed 11-0.

Buglione can burst net for

Bloodvessel

Kevin Keegan and Ray

Wilkins will be taking

their Fulham side on a

coast on Sunday for an

day trip to the Kent

FA Cup tie against a

history in the

competition.

team with an eventful

Margate are making the most

of their few days of fame prior

to Sunday's FA Cup first-round

tie against Fulham in the Kent

seaside town. The players, the

manager and club officials are

becoming accustomed to the

cameras of Sky TV, which will

be broadcasting the match.

The club's main sponsor, the

bald, beer-bellied pop singer Buster Bloodvessel, is loudly

celebrating his brief return to

Strangely, for a 101-year-old

club who are members of the

Southern (now Dr Martens)

League, this is Margate's first

appearance in the FA Cup first

round since 1972 - before some

members of their current squad

were born and before anyone

had heard of Mr Bloodvessel's

Cup first round for the first time

in 1929 when they gained a no-

table 2-0 win at their Kent ri-

vals, and members of the Third

Division South, Gillingham. In

1972 they beat another Third

Division side, Swansea. 1-0 at

home. Another 1-0 win in the

the

sham

dreams of: at

home to Totten-

ham Hotspur.

Margate reached the FA

pop group, Bad Manners.

the limelight.

For Margate's goalkeeper, the former Brentford man Chic Brodie, who had also hit the headlines a year earlier when he was badly bitten by a dog during a game at Colchester, it was another embarrassing experience. For Bournemouth it. Margate in the FA Cup they had been humiliated on their own ground.

record, as hapless Margate

In 1961 Margate had hammered Bournemouth 3-0 at-Dean Court in the first round before going out to another County. "That was the best" Margate team I've seen," Tom-

was in charge at Hartsdown Park for 21 years. An inside-forward with Tottenham and West Ham, his playing career was interrupted by the Second World War. He arrived at Margate as player-manager in 1949 and did not relinquish control of the team until 1970.

Margate have reached the third round of the Cup only twice: their encounter with Tottenham described above, and in 1935-36. That was their second season as a nursery club for Arsenal. A former Gunners player. Jack Ramsey, was their manager, and they could borrow promising young and other fringe players from Highbury. Arsenal paid 60 per-

second round at . Isthmian FA CUP League outfit COUNTDOWN players, and they Walton & Her. COUNTDOWN arranged for the Walton & Herearned Margate the sort of third-round tie that every non-League club

It is an occa-

Ken Tomlinson, goals in their 2-0 who has been watching the win over Liverpool in the 1950 team for 51 years, remembers FA Cup final, and Jack Lamwell. "Spurs travelled to Kent on the Friday and stayed the night in a hotel in Margate," he recalled this week. "They mixed with a lot of people in the town and made a big impression.

"The following day - Saturday was always the football day then - we had a huge crowd at Hartsdown Park [their picturesque stadium]. The attendance figure we published was 8,500, because that was the police limit, but when we counted the gate money we realised we had 14,500 in.

"Spurs were only 1-0 up at half-time," Tomlinson added. "It was an even first half, but they scored five more in the second half." For the record, Tottenham's scorers in their 6-0 win were Martin Chivers with two, the late Cyril Knowles, John Pratt, Jimmy Pearce and Martin Peters. No one has scored a goal in the FA Cup proper at Hartsdown Park since.

The previous season, 1971-72, Margate suffered a far heavier FA Cup defeat. Drawn away to Bournemouth in the first round, they came up against a prolific striker who went on to play for Manchester United and Scotland. Ted McDougall scored nine goals, - Rupert Metcalf which remains an FA Cup

was sweet revenge, though, for the last time they had faced

Third Division side, Notes linson claimed.

Their much-respected manager then was Almer Hall, who 🧍

Telfor

-

Exis rec

cent of the wages of these loaned arranged for the pitch at Hartsdown Park to be reduced to exactly the same size as Highbury's. Arsenal's first-team squad regularly trained on it. With Reg

Lewis, who scored

bert, who had played in the 1930 and '32 finals for Arsenal, in their side, Margate beat Queen's Park Rangers 3-1 in the first round in 1935. But it was a local lad who was the hero. of their second-round win over Crystal Palace. Jimmy Evans scored a hat-trick in Margate's 3-0 triumph. "He was a printer at Thanet Press in the town." Tomlinson remembered. "He : died only two years ago."

On Sunday, the locals packed in to the now-6,000 capacity Hartsdown Park, and the neutrals watching on television, will be looking for a new 📣 hero who can perhaps emulate... Evans, or at least score one, goal, against Ray Wilkins' Fulham side.

It could be Martin Buglione, who was sold to St Johnstone for a healthy fee in 1992 but has since returned to Kent. It could -. be Mark Munday or Paul Lamb, who, along with goalkeeper Lee Turner, played for -Gravesend & Northfleet in the third round of the Cup at Aston Villa in January last year.

Under the experienced managership of Chris Kinnear, who took Dover into the GM Vauxhali Conference, Margate will be well prepared. It couldbe their day.

Advantage Greece as England falter late on Wilkinson wary of Russia

Greece Under-21 England Under-2!0

Traianos Dellas scored one goal and Nikos Liberopoulos added another as England's Under-21 side succumbed to two late goals to their Greek counterparts in a European Under-21 Championship playoff first-leg in Iraklion, Crete.

Liam Botham, son of former

England cricketer Ian, has

ioined the Welsh Cup holders

Cardiff after being freed by

chose rugby rather than

following in his father's

cricketing footsteps, is deter-

mined to succeed at the Arms

Park. "I am totally committed

to what professional rugby is all

with Cardiff after Peter

Thomas, their millionaire bene-

factor, met his father as they fol-

lowed the European team overseas players.

"They have opened my eyes

Botham first got his chance

The 20-year-old centre, who

West Hartlepool.

to them," he said.

about.

Botham joins Cardiff

RUGBY UNION

Dellas opened the scoring from a free-kick from outside the area, which took a wicked deflection, in the 74th minute. Liberopoulos made it 2-0 with a twice-taken penalty kick, conceded by goalkeeper Richard ments earlier John Curtis, the Manchester United defender,

Peter Taylor's England

around at the Ryder Cup in

Botham played two friend-

The Cardiff manager, Peter

lies which persuaded Terry

Holmes, the club coach, to

give him a permanent deal.

Manning, said: "He has a good

attitude and is a very deter-

mined, competitive person who

wants to make it as a profes-

New Zealand-born No 8 Guy

Phillips from Bridgend.

Phillips, 22, son of the Bridgend

coach. John Phillips, was re-

leased by his father as Bridgend

had exceeded their quota of

Aberavon have signed the

sional rugby player."

Valderrama.

Wright, in injury time. Mo-

had been sent off after being shown his second yellow card.

one goal in their eight group matches, had been under severe pressure for much of the match. The second leg is at Norwich on 17 December.

team, who had conceded only

Wilkie's silicone mask is the

new face of swimming

17 DECEMBET:

(ROBERE MADERA?: S Liberopoulos, Láde (Kostoules, 78), Dermitzafde, Delles, Antzes, Gounses, Maurogandes, Kiesende, Konsteinficia, N. Usperdopoulos, Solidas.

(PMCI-AND UNIDEF-21; Wright (powids); Schmess (Asson Val), Cardis (Manchester Usid, Hell (Country), Sevinant (Oldram), Hegipes (Answell), Lampers (Mac Ham), Causable (Docerat Parages), K. Oyar (powids), Helskey (Laboster),

Britain's swimmers are trying

out a revolutionary silicone

mask in their pursuit of world

mer Olympic gold medallist

David Wilkie, combines the

traditional swimming cap and

goggles and has a bold Union

Jack across the top of the head.

elled by Karen Pickering and

Graham Smith, will be mar-

keted by Speedo. "It is main-

ly for the competitive

swimmer but there is no rea-

son why it shouldn't be worn

by the recreational swimmer

as well," Wilkie said.

The mask (right), mod-

The mask, an idea of for-

and Olympic medals.

Howard Wilkinson believes his squad of England youngsters could see their European dreams upstaged by Russia when the countries' respective Under-

18 sides meet at Crewe tonight. The England coach is worried that his highly paid young players could be surprised by a team playing for their financial

futures. Wilkinson said: "Most of them see football as a way out.

Wilkie, who won silver in

Munich in 1972 and gold at

Montreal four years later, was

the first male swimmer to wear

senarate swim cap and goggles

in international competition.

mask reduces drag around

the eyes by up to 53 per cent.

Swimmers are getting faster

all the time," Wilkie said. "In

my breaststroke events, times

have improved by four sec-

onds over 20 years and some

heads and we have shaved

body hair and you wonder how

much more can be done."

We have shaved our

events still more.

But results show that the

The face of Moscow we saw when we played there recently certainly didn't look like the land of milk and honey to us.

"The team we played against out there had some outstanding players. They were very physical but also flexible and quite agile."

The hosts need to win to ensure they go through to a playoff against France to qualify for the European Championships.

BASEBALL

Winter heralds major league madness

Sport can be strange and unpredictable. It can be eccentric and bizarre. Rarely though does it descend to the levels of certifiable insanity being plumbed by Major League Baseball.

Imagine Arsenal giving Arsène Wenger his marching orders, or Manchester United announcing that Roy Keane, Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes, Dennis Irwin, Andy Cole et al had to be sold. That is what happening as America's national pastime goes into the winter break.

Last week Davey Johnson of the Baltimore Orioles was named the American League manager of the year, after a 98-64 regular season in which

the Orioles led their division throughout Within three hours Johnson had been sacked, the third manager to suffer that fate at the hands of the Os owner, Peter Angelos, in four years.

Ostensibly, the reason was a row over a charity donation. In truth it was Angelos' refusal to countenance anyone with a mind of their own. So he jettisoned Johnson, owner of the best career record of any active major league manager.

But the 1997 world champions, the Florida Marlins, are behaving equally weirdly. They have put the whole team up for sale. This time the reason is salary costs, even though

Marlins' owner. Wayne Huizenga, of Blockbuster Video fame, is one of the richest men in America. The team's best hitter, Moises Alou, has already been traded. "The fans won't like it," said a spokesman, "but they're all available."

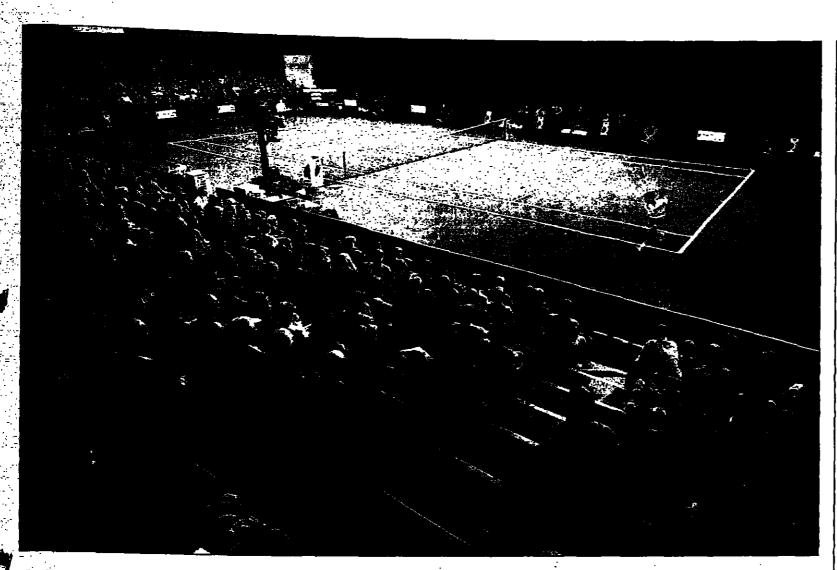
completely mad. Yesterday Ken Griffey Jnr, the Seattle Mariners outfielder generally reckoned the best all-round player in the game, was manimously voted AL's Most Valuable Player on the basis of his 56 home runs and 147 RBI's. Which means the Mariners will probably get rid of him.

لفكذا من الاجل

Baseball has not yet gone

- Rupert Comwell

27/SPORT



Tim Henman plays a backhand on his way to victory over Alan Mackin in front of a packed crowd at Telford yesterday

Photograph: Peter Jay

Telford ready for life after Henman

Tim Henman says this week will be his last appearance at the **National Tennis** Championships at Telford, while the sponsors are said to be reviewing their involvement. However, as Adam Szreter discovered, the championships are in good health.

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The car park at the superbly-appointed International Centre in Telford is packed every day this week and schookchildren pour in next year, added to Greg by the coachload. Entrance to Rusedski's absence this year. the national tennis championships is free for them, which it is hoped will encourage any

up the sport. There are also a variety of tennis-related activities to keep them entertained should the matches themselves fail to so so: a "Batak" wall to test their reactions; a tennis "factory" where they can play a variety of games; and a servecage where they can measure the speed of their serves.

The tournament itself can seem almost incidental, but ell eyes were focused briefly on Henman yesterday morning as he indulged in a gentle 40minute work-out on Centre Court, seeing off the promising 16-year-old Scotsman Alan Mackin 6-0, 6-3. But it is Henman's decision not to return that has put something of a dampener on proceedings.

Cathy Sabin organises coach-

nis and sports seminars that go to make the championships more of a tennis conference than a tournament. "Obviously the Greg and Tim thing has been a real plus," she said. "The kids know who they want to see when they come now and we haven't had to push to sell the tickets or fill the clinics.

"I am sad that Tim won't be here next year. The children will miss him as they've desperately missed Greg this year. He's very charismatic and they remember him sitting down and talking to them last year. But people will come anyway because it's now an established event."

as though he had just learnt more involved it probably isn't fair to cide with the ATP finals, but in 40 minutes against Henman ask them. In Sweden and than he ever could in a year, said: France the top players don't Rusedski at least remains to be "I think Tim's proved himself play in the national champinow and it will be a good chance onships but they're still con- seems churlish to compare this

tournament next year. Obviously it's better if Tim and Greg play. They attract media and publicity. But that's up to them." And what of the Lawn Tennis Association? Mike Sertin, the

tournament director, said: "The LTA obviously feels that these championships are important for and these things will be consid-British tennis, for all the players, not just the top ones. "When we started the event

in 1983 some of the top players like John Lloyd and Buster Mottram didn't play either, so they're not the be-all and endall of this event. "We would ideally like them

to play if it's humanly possible, budding Tim Henmans to take ing clinics and all manner of ten- for other players to do well in the sidered worthwhile events."

ally are deemed essential to the tournament's success, should the LTA make it worth their while financially to attend? "The LTA board is about to receive a review of all the tournaments in the country from bottom to top, ered as part of this review." Sertin said, cautiously.

If Henman and Rusedski re-

"Guardian Direct are hoping, in principle, to continue to support the event but obviously it depends on how it is to be structured next year. What is certain is that it will take place and it will take place in Telford."

Another plus for next year Young Mackin, who looked but with the type of schedules is that the event will not coinwhether that is enough to tempt seen. Whatever happens, it

Rusedski's request made redundant by injury

Greg Rusedski's ATP Tour World Championship campaign ended prematurely yesterday when a hamstring injury prevented the British No I from playing his concluding round-robin match against Spain's Carlos Moya. As John Roberts in Hannover, explains, one nagging point remained.

scheduling of his round-robin match against Carlos Mova hypothetical, so the question became one of principle-would Boris Becker or Pete Sampras. in similar circumstances, have been granted the 24 hours' respite Rusedski was denied?

Neither Rusedski nor Tony Pickard, his coach, saw any sense in belabouring the point. "It's a strange situation, let's put it that way," Pickard said, "but, having been around a fairly long time. Ive experienced other strange situations."

Rusedski requested the switch in his schedule after los-

The prognosis on Greg Ruseding to Pete Sampras on Wednestreford retrospect, after listening to the Russia, who was guaranteed a ski's hamstring rendered the day, but the ATP Tour refused doctor here at the tournament place in the semi-finals here afto delay his match with Moya until today, when Sampras is due to play Australia's Pat Rafter, the United States Open champion. on prime time for German television. Rafter defeated Rusedski in his opening match. "It's all to do with keeping the interest alive for everybody," an ATP

Tour spokesman said. A visit to hospital yesterday confirmed that Rusedski would not be able to continue. Austria's Thomas Muster, the alternate, stepped in to play Moya.

"I asked for a Friday start, but unfortunately that didn't

happen," Rusedski said. "But in

and the doctor at the hospital today, it didn't really make much of a difference in my case."

Pickard concurred, "It's unfortunate. It's sad, but what can you do? We have had two specialists' opinions, and they have both been quite clear it wouldn't have made any difference if we'd have been given three days off."

The \$80,000 (£53,000) Rusedski received for qualifying for Hannover took his prize money for the year to \$1,515,473. He will drop one place to No 6 in the year-end world rankings, overtaken by Yevgeny Kafelnikov, of

ter Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman defeated Sergi Bruguera, of Spain, 6-3, 6-1, in the White Group.

Bruguera then announced his withdrawal because of sore ribs. The ATP Tour, seeking a second alternate, attempted to contact Marcelo Rios (No 10) in Chile and put Richard Krajicek, of the Netherlands, and Alex Corretja, of Spain, on stand-by.

Kafelnikov began the day with a 6-3, 6-0 win over Michael Chang, the second set lasting only 25 minutes. The winner of today's match between Chang and Bjorkman will join Kafelnikov in tomorrow's semi-finals.

RUGBY LEAGUE / GREAT BRITAIN V AUSTRALIA

Morley's slow train left on the sidelines

If Great Britain finish the job in the third Test at Elland Road on Sunday, it will, says Dave Hadfield, herald the coming of age of Adrian Morley.

The Leeds second row started the series against Australia a fringe figure following mixed fortunes in last year's tour to the South Pacific, but his importance to Great Britain has steadily increased.

Morley was a substitute at Wembley, impressing with his sheer forcefulness when he came into the action, and last week at Old Trafford he started a Test for the first time, playing a full part in Britain's forward domination.

Morley had reason to fear his international career had ended before it had properly begun. His first Test appearance, as a substitute in the first Test in New Zealand last year, was a disaster, with a flash of indiscipline effectively losing the match.

"It was the best day of my life and the worst all rolled into one. I didn't know whether I'd ever get another chance, although I got back into the squad again for the third Test."

Even then Morley, at 20, could have been written off. Fortunately, two former Great Britain second rows of rare distinction had more faith in him than that.

The Great Britain manager, Phil Lowe, played in the Great Britain team that last beat Australian in a series in 1970 and is a long time admirer, who believes Morley has the ability to become the best of his generation in his old position, while the appointment of another of the breed, Andy Goodway, as the national team's coach has done Morley no harm

"It's a help to me having two greats in the position involved in the squad. They know what they want from a second row and they must see some of what they want in

me," Morley said. What any coach is looking for in his ideal second row is size, speed and aggression and Morley has all three.

"Self-control has been a bit

Morley: Has size, speed and aggression

of a problem for me in the past but I worked on that," he said. "Last Saturday 1 thought we all kept our cool very well. When we put pressure on the Australians, they couldn't handle it and it was their discipline that started going.

"It was a completely different feeling from the previous week. We wanted to win more than they did. A few people had slagged us off during the week and we wanted to prove them wrong.

"But we know it is going

to be twice as hard this week." That is something the British forwards have been reminding themselves of all week, but there is no denying that some of the mystique of the opposition was broken down at Old Trafford. "We could see in their eyes that they didn't know

vhat to do when we started driving them back. "Any suggestion that they eased off and let us win is garbage. They tried just as

hard; the difference was that we stood up to them." Morley believes the spirit forged on the disappointing tour last year has stood Great Britain in good stead. "This is virtually the same team that went away. We got to know each other really well and we now feel as though we have

been together for a long time. "That shows in the way we are working as a team in this

The Salford-born Morley whose his elder brother Chris went in the opposite direction and joined St Helens, admits to being far more nervous this week as the deciding Test approaches, as he is entitled to be, considering that Great Britain are on the verge of something they have not

achieved for 27 years. "I remember being taken by my dad to see the Test against Australia in 1986," he recalled. "I've watched videos of all the recent series when we've been beaten and often badly beaten. It would be wonderful to be part of the British team that changes

Morley has a lively sense of history, as befits someone who lists Bob Dylan as his favourite music. Maybe the great man's back catalogue could provide some inspiration as Morley and his teammates try to reverse the flow of recent Test history. "The times they are A-Changin'" perhaps? For Adrian Morley they already have.

Clyde recovers to face unchanged Britain

changes in their side for the third Test, while Andy Goodway has name an unchanged Great Britain line-up.

The Australian coach, John Lang, has being able to bring in his most experienced forward, Bradley Clyde, for the first time in the series. Clyde has recovered from a calf injury and takes the place of Matt Adamson in the second-row, the Penrith forward dropping to substitute.

Ryan Girdler is back after missing the second Test through injury and a reshuffle to accommodate him as centre and goal-kicker sees Brett Mullins move to the wing and Ken Nagas to the bench.

However, there are still lingering fitness doubts about Girdler and Mullins, who came off the field at Old Trafford with a burst blood vessel in his leg.

Goodway has decided against starting the match with the Wigan second row Simon Haughton at Elland Road on Sunday, reasoning

Australia have made two that he can make a greater It will be a full house at Elimpact from the bench.

The Great Britain coach has decided against including another Wigan forward. Mick Cassidy, among the substitutes, where he could cover for the hooker, James Lowes, who has had a bout of flu.

The Australians say they have now been given fair warning about the capabilities of Goodway's line-up.

"We probably underestimated them a bit in the second Test," said their captain, Laurie Daley. "They came out a lot hungrier than we were prepared for. They knuckled down and ground out the victory while we were looking for the knock-out punch all the time and it didn't happen for us."

Lang said that he is not labouring the issue of the long gap since Great Britain last beat Australia in the Test

"I don't think we could have any more desire to win,"

ATP TOUR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Henonover Ger): White group; Y Kabinikov (Rus) bt M Cheng (US) 6-3 6-0; J Sjortman (Swe) bt S Bruguera (Sp) 6-3 6-1

he said.

land Road. The ground's near-40,000 capacity was sold out yesterday, bringing the total for the three-Test series up to around 120,000 - a figure that both countries would have settled for in advance.

A 19-year-old player has died in a car crash hours before he was due to sign for the newly promoted Super League club, Huddersfield.

The Huddersfield chief executive, Les Coulter, said that John Coletta was "a

very promising player with a very bright future." The club have signed the scrum-half Chris Orr from the Gold Coast club in Australia and released their Cook Islands scrum-half Ali Davys.

GREAT BRITAIN (v Australia, third fast, Elland Road, Sunday): Atcheson; Robinson, Radinkel, Newtove, hurter Farrell (capt), Goulding: McDermott, Lowes, Broadbert, Joynt, Morley, Scutthorpe, Substitutes: Long, Haughton, McNamers, Forshae. rauguan, Mohamara, Forshak.
AUSTRALIA: Lockyer, Mulins, Giroler,
Ettingshausen, Saitor, Daley (capt),
Gower, Stevens, Waters. Thorn. Talis,
Clyde, Smith. Substituties: Ademson,
Kearns, Kimmoriev, Nanss.

- Dave Hadfield

SPORTING DIGEST

Başketbali 863A; Sceton 86 Derwer 98; Attente 89 Indiana 86; Sacramento 15 Ortento 89; New York 93 Romar 70; Westington 90 Chicago 83; Philadel-phia 74 Houston 700; Phoento, 103 Mayesukse 85; Utah 98 Vancouver 80; Detroit 102 Golden 8ate 73

BOWIS

BINDPEAN INDOOR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (Messay): 13th recent Mens singless England D Holl by Quarrasey 21-71; Instant (G McDoy) to Issued 21-71; Enternot by Wates (G Generalizaria) 21-20; Pourse England (M Barriack, B Morley, M Jong, G Harlow) by Quarrasey 25-92; Instant (M Morrey, D Harding, M Kent, M Ansiety) by Jensey, D Harding, M Kent, M Ansiety) by Jensey, D Harding, M Kent, M Ansiety) by Jensey, D Harding, M Kent, M Hommoson, D Harding, J Hossy by Instant D Hommoson, R Buttiesky, J Hossy by Instant (P Notice) 42-81; Irranel by Quarrasey 21-55. Fourth, England, S Biddown, M Jackim, B Alderson and D Harding) 21-81; Irranel by Guernsey 21-55. Fourth, England, S Biddown, M Jackim, B Alderson and D Harding) 25-77; Guernsey by Irranel 25-8; its land, (jul Wilderson, 1 Bast, O Belrd, M Johnston), 21 Jensey 22-20.

Boxing Lennox Lewis' mandatory World Box-ing Council heavyweight title defence against the European champion, Zellico Maurovic of Croatia, was confirmed yeaterday. The fight must take place before the end of July next year.

Northamptonshire have appointed Kevin Curran as their capitain for next season, in succession to Rob Bailey. Tour hatch (Third day of lous) Remain-its Was India 844 (C Hooper 48ing, S Camp-bell 78, P Stemma 78 and 1910 to 1 (P Valence to 88, 8 Campbell 54; Abdul Cadr XI 257.

Drugs in sport Australia's Olympic Committee banned the bobsleigh competitor Nathan Wheldon, 21, for two years yes-terday after finding him guilty of re-turning a positive test for the anabolic steroid stanozolol. Brian Borrows, the 38-year-old former Botton and Everton defender, has joined Swindon from Coventry on a mes transier.
Swansea Chy have made eight players available for transfer: Steve Waltin, Dave O'Gorman, Kwarne Ampadu, João Moreira, Linton Brown, Gary Jones, Lee Jones and Roger Freestone.

Jones, Lee Jones and Roger Freestone. The Italian Serie A club Sampdoria have hired Vujadin Boskov for his second spell as coach. Ukraine's football federation has banned the midfielder Sergei Nahomyak from all footbal for two years for failing a drugs test after the first leg of the World Cup play-off against Croatia. The Dripro Dripropetrovsk player has also been given a lifetime ban from the Ukrainian Lague.

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPRONSHIP Cualifying Play-off first leg: Greece 2 (Delas 78 N Liberopoutos pen 80) England o (art OF) stading, Iraidion).

WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Interna-

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Bestern Langtes Premier Division: Februariose
1 Suction; Yown 3; Schem 2; Haten 1; Stowmariest O'Woodsma, Portline Langue Premier Divisions Aston Ville 2; Blechtours 2; Birming-ham 1 Steffield Wednesdey 1 et Hednesdrot); Marchester Uni 4 Steine 2; Notificham Forest 8 Tennmern 4; First Division: Bortlingham Forest 8 Tennmern 4; First Division: Bortlingham Forest Bellevial 2; Wobes 3 October 0; Palcot Lieb, Record Division: Barrisery 0 Lincon 0; Rochdele 0 Visit 0; Stressbury 3 Steffield Lieb, Record Division: Barrisery 9 Lincon 0; Rochdele 0 Visit 0; Stressbury 3 Steffield Lieb, Tahro Division: Barry 1 Scarborough 3; Chester 7 Nescastle 1; Scunthorpe 1 Doncaster 1; Welsell 1 Hall City 0, Aven Insurance Combination First Division: Charlton 0 Norwich 0; Portsmonth 3 Welsted 0; Swhoton 5 Oxford Uni 1; Tottenham 1 Arsand 1 Auf Laylon Orienti. Fix tooth Cup First recent Welstey 8 Bright and 2 Duvich Langue: Vitesse Arrham 2 Sparts Hottercham 1; Alex 1 Nesrae Enclased 0; Hendrychen 2; Dutch Langue: Vitesse Arrham 2 Sparts Hottercham 1; Alex 1 Nesrae Enclased 0; Hendrychen 3 Cherkman 1; Alex 1 Nesrae Enclased 0; Hendrychen 3 Cherkman 1; Alex 1 Nesrae Enclased 0; Hendrychen 3 Cherkman 1; Alex 1 Nesrae Enclased 0; Hendrychen 3 Cherkman 1; Alex 1 Nesrae Enclased 0; Hendrychen 3 Cherkman 1; Alex 1 Nesrae Enclased 0; Hendrychen 3 Cherkman 1; Alex 1 Nesrae Enclased 0; Hendrychen 3 Cherkman 1; Alex 1 Nesrae Enclased 0; Hendrychen 3 Cherkman 1; Alex 1 Nesrae Enclased 0; Hendrychen 3 Cherkman 1; Alex 1 Nesrae Enclased 0; Hendrychen 3 Cherkman 1; Alex 1 Nesrae Enclased 0; Hendrychen 3 Cherkman 1; Alex 1 Nesrae Enclased 0; Hendrychen 3 Cherkman 1; Alex 1 Nesrae Enclased 0; Hendrychen 3 Cherkman 1; Alex 1 Nesrae Enclased 0; Hendrychen 3 Cherkman 1; Alex 1 Nesrae Enclased 0; Hendrychen 3 Cherkman 1; Alex 1 Nesrae Enclased 0; Hendrychen 3 Cherkman 1; Alex 1 Nesrae Enclased 0; Hendrychen 3 Cherkman 1; Alex 1 Nesrae Enclased 0; Hendrychen 3 Cherkman 1; Alex 1 Nesrae Enclased 0; Hendrychen 3 Cherkman 3 Cherkman 1; Alex 1 Nesrae Enclase

TODAY'S **FIXTURES** Football 7.50 unless abset
7.50 unless abset
7.6 unless abset
PA CUP FIRST ROUND
Belatel Rovers v Gitinghem (7.45)
Swensee v Peterborough (7.45)
EUROPEAN UNICER-18 CHAMPYONSHIP
Qualifying round: England v Rusels (70)
(at Grest) Road, Grave),
NORTH WEST COUNTES LEAGUE First
Division: Darwen v Roberndeln NORUM WISS I COUNT I BEST LEWGUE HITSE Divisions Derwen V Researchis UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Divisions Stevens & Loyds Cor y V Northampton Spences. HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF RELAND Premier Divisions Drogheds Ltd v Deny City (7AS); Firn Herpe v Sigo Rovers

worr 6-4 on peneties). Spanish League: Merkis 1 Sporting Glon 0; Celta Vigo 1 Met-lora 0; Corposinia 2 Resi Meridi 3; Resi Visi-laciold 0 Recing Sentander 0; Espanyol 3 Velencia 0; Zuregaza 1 Deportivo La Corunta 2; Resi Oviado 1 Tenerite 0; Resi Bette 0 Resi Spotenterio

Golf

TABLETYO MASTERS (Gotenzies, Japan)
Leading first-round scores (Jepan urshae stateed): 86 P McMinney (Aust, Y Mizumat) Y Yememorate of S Girn (Jeug, R Medical) (Aust, 1 Y
M Clazzabel (Sp), N Czeld K Kuresberg, 89 L
Messwood (St), D Caries (Ro) (A) Twissmale,
K Yölto, K Hosokses, Rayochi Yoneyams, Seleaded: 89 M CMesser, (LS); 70 B Inth (LS); 71
T Herriton (LS), R Gibton (Cari, J Surman (LS),
C Rocce IM (72 P Remission (LS), M Brooks
(LS), 74 B Jobe (LS),
PGA OMERA TOUR, MASTERS (Malegalia)
Lasting Brak-round scores: 88 J Merel Sright
(PR), 18 J S Wates (Soc) J Rempo (SN), P Gurassigness (Melsy), R Paron (St), July (More),
Morel (Soc), 18 Wates (Soc) J Rempo (PM), 71
J Chipmenry (Ind), Mann Young-dui, S Morf,
G Herrakum (LS), C Pleachof (Fm), D Hosel
(Sing), 14 Mary (Soc), N Grassbern (Leon),
Water, Sac-Chang (Tra); 72 M Batr (Mol),
Zineg Lierntei CAT, J Rending (Ind.) D Hosel
(Soc), M Melanst (Sing), N Grassbern (Loon),
Zineg Lierntei CAT, J Rending (Ind.) D Hosel
(Soc), M Melanst (Sing), Heichty (PM), C D Chris-Strop
(S Kor), M Melanst (Sing), Heichty (PM), C D Chris-Strop
(S Kor), M Melanst (Sing), Heichty (PM), C D Chris-Strop
(S Kor), M Melanst (Sing), Heichty (PM), C D Chris-Strop
(S Kor), M Melanst (Sing), Heichty (PM), C D (PM), C VIlarovan (PH); 73 A Jami (Melay), S Marthy
(Melay); 7 Stroj (Tra).

(BO); St Patrick's Athletic v Killenny City (745); Shelbourne v Dundalk (745). Rugby League TOUR MATCH: Great Britain Students v Outcomband Students (720) (at Keighley RLFC). Rugby Union TOUR BLATCH: Cambridge University of Australian Capital Tember (730).
CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTER CURGroup B. Labester " Potherham (745).
Group C: Coventry o Sale (730). TENHES: Nemotion Creampionality (Prestors). SWIMMERS C: British Grand Prior (Leicester)

Ice hockey Newcastie Cobras have named Dale Lambert, the 38-year-old Canadian de-fenciamenth, as their new head coach. Mt.: Weshingon 4 Pitsburgh 1: Forder 2: NY telenders 2 (og: New Jersey 3 NY Rengins 2; Dalles 3 Boston 3 (og: Caroline 6 Edmonton 4; Montreal 4 Angheim 3 (og: Vencouver 5 San

Snooker SILOOKEY

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA UK CHAMPIONSHIP
(Prestori) First round: K Burosa: (Eng) to D Roe
(Eng) 6-4; P Davise (Wei) to S Judd (Eng) 8-4;
T Junes (Eng) to J Lether (Soc) 6-5; K
Brougston (Eng) to L Weiser (Wei) to S Occito K Payer (Eng) 6-4; N Enterprison (Eng) to S
Mazoda (Eng) 6-5; D Raynolds (Eng) to S OCCInor (N) 6-8; W Jones (Wei) to L S Marynolds (Eng) 6-4; D Burnett (Soc)
to C Mediamery (Soc) 6-7; M Durestinosed
(Soc) to A Davise (Wei) 6-5; C Scanier (Eng)
to J Pary (Eng) 6-4; O Poulty (Eng) b N Paeca
(Eng) 6-4; D Gray (Eng) to G Dott (Soc) 6-5; M Campbel (Soc) 1 to Company
(Eng) to C Mediamery (Soc) 6-5; M Campbel (Eng) to N Paeca

Sumo KYUSHU GRAND TOURNAMENT (Fukuoka, daptin) Fifth day (of 15): Kontehild (won 3, lost 2) ft Advisority (2-3); Kushimaani (2-3) ft Africation (2-3); Kushimaani (2-3); Kushimaani (2-3); Kushimaani (2-3); Kushimaani (2-3); Aogjerina (4-1) ft Klaskantikold (2-3); Teno (2-2) ft Kjolantikoni (2-3); Teno (2-2) ft Kjolantikoni (2-3); Kotohazima (2-3); Melnouni (1-4) ft Kotohazima

S Bruguera (Sp) 6-3 6-1
GUARDIAN DIFIECT BRITISH NATIONAL,
CHAMPIONISHPS (listiond) Marra singles,
second resent: T Herman (Oxfordshire) bt A
Mackin (Mest of Societies) 6-0 6-3; J Delgado
(Marwicksthe) bt P CBH (Wigstins) 8-7 6-6 6-2;
A Parmar (Fertification) bt C Barnett (Ferford and Words) 6-2 6-4; A Richerdson (Lincolnalish) bt D Lobb (Hempolaties) 6-3 6-2 Third
rounds; C Wildrigon (Fertification) bt L Milliona.
(Richidens) 6-2 6-2; D Supption (Surrey) bt T
Schiks (Norbid 7-5 6-3; Wossen'n simples, third
rounds; L Latimar (Marwickshire) bt C Certer
(Notice) 6-8 4-1; Wossen'n simples, third
rounds; L Latimar (Marwickshire) bt C Certer
(Notice) 6-8 4-1; Wossen'n Surrey) bt C Certer
(Notice) 6-8 4-1; Wossen'n 5-7 7-5 6-4
Champion (Description) 6-7 7-5 6-4
Champion (Description) 6-7 7-5 6-4
ADVANTA CHAMPIONSHIPS WOMEN'S (Neth) 4-3 rtc, M Hingle (Swit) bt 8 Appelment (Swi) 8-2 4-5 6-2. LLDOOR USTA MED'S CHALLENGER (Les W.

TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of Bangladeshi national team cricketers and officials denied visas prior to a tour to New Zealand. The New Zealand High Commission in New Delhi, which had refused to grant the visas, subsequently issued entry permits instead.

ON WEDNESDAY IT WAS THEM,

Draw date: 12/11/97. The winning numbers: 3, 6, 8, 27, 36, 45. Bonus number: 47. Total Sales: £41,372,692. Prize Fund: £27,700,707 (45% of ticket sales plus £9,082,996 from Saturday's rollover jackpot). Match 6 (Jackpot) £7,385,490 £14,770,980 Match 5 plus bonus ball £159,104 865 45,498 Match 4 £2,365,740 Match 3 767,928 £7,679,280 814,301 £27,659,504

> IT COULD BE YOU, THE NATIONAL LOTTERY date contained in Campiot central computer system shall pro

England are still talking enthusiastically about the brave new world of rugby union they hope to explore at

Twickenham tomorrow, but Alex King's knee injury may well have knocked that world off its axis. Chris Hewett reflects on a setback for both player and country.

"The more I practise, the luckier I seem to get," said Gary Player, by way of explaining his phenomenal success on the greens and fairways of golf's money-laden landscape. It is not the sort of message Alex King will be wanting to hear today. The 22-year-old outsidehalf from Wasps works harder

and a fat lot of good it appears to be doing him.

King withdrew yesterday from the England side to play Australia at Twickenham tomorrow, citing more trouble with his right knee. He gambled on keyhole surgery late last month, rightly suspecting that he might be chosen for the Wallaby encounter if only he could guarantee his fitness. But while he survived the rigours of trial by Brive on Sunday, this week's heavy training sessions have proved a test too far.

His absence means a return journey from centre to standoff for Mike Catt and a reprieve for Phil de Glanville, last season's England captain. Paul Grayson, the Northampton goal-kicking specialist, has been drafted on to the bench.

"The last two training

than most at his chosen sport sessions have been very intense and I realised when I woke vesterday morning that the knee was not 100 per cent and probably wouldn't be in time for the match," said King, who tried hard to smile at his colleagues' good-natured pick-me-up banter but failed miserably.

"It was probably the most difficult sporting decision I've ever had to make, but there was no real option but to pull out. I wouldn't have been able to play to the best of my ability and that would have meant my letting the side down as well as myself."

He already knows how that feels, for King was notoriously let down by others as recently as last March. The then England coach, Jack Rowell, got his knickers in such a complicated twist over goal-kicking that he dropped his most gifted young playmaker from the squad to



side to play Australia tomorrow Photograph: David Ashdown

play Wales and filled the breach by dragging Rob Andrew out of retirement. The decision did about as much for King's spirits as Watergate did for Nixon, especially when Andrew sneaked on for a cameo near the end. Ironically, the new Wood-

ward regime now faces an almost identical problem. Catt's occasionally inspired but unreliable marksmanship requires a substantial safety net, but King's absence thrusts the onus on Matt Perry, the debutant full-back who has quite enough

on his plate without having to worry about goal-kicking - especially as he has not kicked for the posts in anger since bursting into the limelight at Bath late last season.

Grayson, very much a specialist, provides some cover from the bench, but his continuing thigh problems have prevented him from taking aim for Northampton this season. Although Roger Uttley, the England manager, denied any suggestion of a kicking crisis, the side will be horribly exposed if Catt's radar goes haywire.

Yet that is far from the most deflating aspect of King's misfortune. What his absence really denies England is the chance to blaze a glory trail through the most exciting midfield trio selection since Will Carling and Jeremy Guscott were in rompers. The mixture of King's subtlety,

Catt's lone-wolf explosiveness and Will Greenwood's classical passing skills looked a rich brew indeed and it would be a travesty if Woodward permanently shelved his grand design through temporary force of cir-

"I'm pleased to get another chance at outside-half because I see myself first and foremost in that position," Catt said. "I feel for Alex though, genuinely feel for him.

"It's a tough call, ruling yourself out of a big match like this. I can only say that he's proved himself a bigger man than I was this time last year, when I played against Argentina without being completely fit."

As for De Glanville, few will begrudge him an opportunity to set his personal record straight against the Wallabies. His uncharacteristic defensive frailty

against Australia in Sydney last summer threatened to draw a thick, black line under his Test career, but his recent form has been far more impressive and Woodward thought long and hard about giving him a start in tomorrow's match.

Lawrence Dallaglio, De Glanville's successor as captain, made all the right noises as he balanced his sympathy for King with a bullish statement of belief in the revamped back division. "The emphasis in this squad is on precisely that - the squad," he said. "We've all trained exceptionally well this week and both Mike and Phil have demonstrated at club level recently that they are more than capable of playing at this level."

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Unfortunately, we will have to wait a little longer to see if the same can be said for poor Alex King.

Gascoigne tempted by American dream

Paul Gascoigne has not played for an English club since he was carried off playing for Tottenham in the 1991 FA Cup final. Yesterday he revealed he may never do so again. America, or Japan, are

more likely destinations if he decides to leave Rangers. Glenn Moore listened to him as he prepared at Bisham Abbey for England's friendly

international against

Cameroon tomorrow.

It makes more sense than Ian Botham's short-lived jaunt to Hollywood a few years back. but Paul Gascoigne's suggestion vesterday that, after the World Cup. he might pack his bags for the US of A is still an odd one.

At 30 Gascoigne could be on the cusp of the greatest six weeks of his career, his national coach, Gienn Hoddie, has told him he could go on for another five years; yet he is talking of retiring from the international stage within seven months.

Speaking during a break from preparations for tomorrow's Wembley international against Cameroon he said: "Ill see after the World Cup and if I feel I've had enough and that I want to enjoy myself and relax it could be the US. I like the States. It's a great place."

Between jokes a relaxed Gascoigne added: "I will still have two years on my contract but if I did decide I wanted to move to America or Japan then I don't think the chairman would stand in my way.

happens "Whatever Rangers will be my last club in Britain. I can't see myself playing in the Premiership and if I leave it will be for abroad. I'll give everything for Rangers this season and if I feel I can do a job for them and Glenn Hoddle I'll stay. If I don't I'll talk to Walter [Smith, the retiring Rangers manager], Glenn and Terry [Venables] but if I felt I wanted to enjoy the last couple of years of my career abroad I'd do that."

There is logic in this. Gascoigne has lived a goldfish bowl life for seven years now, ever since he captured the national imagination in Italia 90. He said he is still followed wherever he goes and that would still be the case anywhere else in Europe or in Japan.

In America, where, as Ken Jones wrote in these pages yes terday, the game is a recreation not an entertainment, he would be effectively anonymous. Such is the concentration on the stars of gridiron, baseball and hasketball even Carl Lewis can walk down an American street without being noticed - so Gascoigne should have no problems. In matches he would be able to dribble past players at will and play to the crowds in a moderate league of little in-

But would Gascoigne really like being anonymous? So

many of his antics are attention-seeking it is hard to believe even the new mature version would like to be truly ignored. And would his enduring competitiveness be fulfilled? Rangers may be a cut above most their opposition but the Scottish game makes up in passion what it lacks in

His high personal playing standards were evident when he was asked what he recalled about his match against Cameroon in the 1990 World Cup. Instead of mentioning the two passes he played to Gary Lineker from which Lineker won the penalties which earned England victory he replied, "giving away the

Hoddle was certainly keen to forestall talk of a Yankee Doodle Gazza. "It would be foolish to make a decision like that now," he said. "If a player looks after himself nowadays he can continue his career further than ever. As it stands Paul is a cast-iron certainty for France. In his current there is no better midfielder in the country. I am very pleased with him on and off the

Gascoigne admitted that the transfer speculation around him earlier this season had "unbalanced" him and that he had deserved to be briefly dropped at Rangers. He-saw Smith and was told the manager wanted him to run at people more and involve himself in the game. That he is now doing, though Hoddle stressed that taking on players in a domestic league was a different mat-

Facing his future: Paul Gascoigne ponders his options during England training yesterday ter to doing it at international

Hoddle's preparations for Saturday remain complicated by injury and illness with Paul Scholes only partially training yesterday as he is still troubled

by a heavy cold. The other England concerns. Ian Wright and Nicky Butt, trained throughout. In a possible indication of Saturday's team Jamie Redknapp played sweeper during the end of session practice match.

 Tickets for the England-Cameroon match, which kicks off at 6pm, will be available at Wembley on the day. A crowd of up to 50,000 is expected.

France seeking strikers,

Now Wednesday have given

him another chance and the ma-

jority of supporters, remem-

bering the élan his team played

with, have forgiven his abrupt

departure. They may feel there

was little alternative, but if

Wednesday had looked into the

lower divisions they would have

found several. As well as Dee-

han and Duncan there are Alan

Curbishley, Chris Kamara, Stan

Ternent, John Gregory, John

Ward, Tony Pulis, Ian Atkins,

Sam Allardyce, Mick Wadsworth





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Reputation puts Big Ron back on managerial merry-go round

Ron Atkinson is expected to be named as Sheffield Wednesday manager today, six and a half years after he walked out on the club. It will be the 58-yearold's 10th job in 28 years of management. Genn Moore wonders if Sheffield Wednesday have taken a backward

"If I do a half-decent job it may open the door for a lot of people, men like John Deehan and John Duncan, rather than having the same faces on the same merry-go-round."

David Jones would already appear to be doing a half-decent iob as manager of Southampton but his wish, expressed in an interview with the Independent a fortnight ago, already appears wishful thinking. Jones was not thinking specifically of Rou Atkinson when he spoke of the "same faces", but he could have been. Big Ron is a veteran of the managerial merry-goround. When any job vacancy, big or small, crops up his name punditry beckoned.

appears in the headlines. But Atkinson has had success

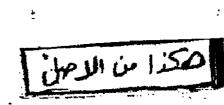
but not as much as his reputation would suggest. Four cups and three promotions is a poor return on 28 years of management. He has a justified reputation for building attractive sides but, too often, they have failed to sustain their promise most notably the Manchester United side of 1985-86 which won their first 10 matches but finished fourth, 12 points adrift of the title. The reasons for the collapse are unclear but it may be telling that, when Alex Ferguson took over, he was unhappy with the fitness and attitude of many of the players he inherited.

Alkinson gained a measure of revenge when he outwitted Ferguson tactically in Aston Villa's 1994 Coca-Cola Cup win over United but since that success Atkinson has seemed off the pace. His last 21 League matches at Aston Villa brought two victories, three draws and 16 defeats: his 64 League matches in charge at Coventry brought 14 victories and 26 defeats despite spending the unparalleled sum of £15.6m. He was unceremoniously shunted upstairs and retirement into TV

and Peter Fox. Or how about John Rudge, still producing miracles at Port Vale? Wednesday may counter that, for all their qualities these men are ill-equipped in the post-Bosman world whereas Atkinson has the contacts. Look at who he found for Coventry ... remember Reggie Genaux, Nii

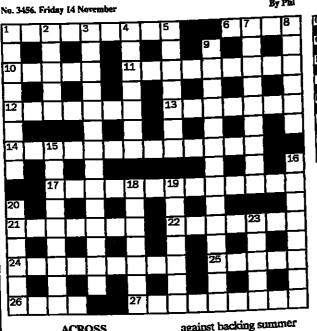
Lamptey, Isaias, Carlita? It may be that Wednesday have decided a bright young manager is their target, but have promised not to approach Barnsley's Danny Wilson until the end of the season. If so Ron's last outing will be a cameo, but if he fails it will probably be an expensive one. If he keeps them up, as he should do given the quality in the side, will they still replace him, or hope the magic lasts?

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Photograph: Laurence Griffiths/Allsport

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



ACROSS 1 Waits to secure nothing endlessly inferior - genuine 24 quality required (4.5)

But it's not what you'd have for seconds (dessert)! 10 Song from beginning of last 27 Man going to period town

year. I see (5) 11 Some wrong is nominally revoked by priest (9)

12 Toys of supreme quality? (3, 4)13 Table decoration, electro-

plated, turning green (7) 14 Guess the Queen is after money for tables (5,8) 17 Swapped new towns? (7,6)

22 Exotic holiday resort

21 Milk jug for one who's terrified after spilling first

mouth (7) Lamenting changing position (9) 25 Lines of verse penned by

William Binks (5) 26 Roll and tilt (4)

Supports those who run about beginning to scream Runs in still screwing up

courage (5) Plant-based agriculture? (7,7) Seemed to waver about new manor house (7) Part of ship that's gone

down within the last

month? On the contrary (7)

7 Lauding pagan god, say, I cry out (9) Woman's study incorporating mineral deposit (6)

(4,3,3,4) 15 Legendary healing figure providing treatment for special American (9)

fashionable element (8) 18 Scrap turning over most of thick areas of flowers? (7) 19 Soldier steering boat into

20 Second stroke seen in bad handwriting (6) 23 Type of school neglecting 2

Evident all gets broadcast as it happens - be tolerant

16 A situation enthralling

river (7)

Rs prompts letter (5)